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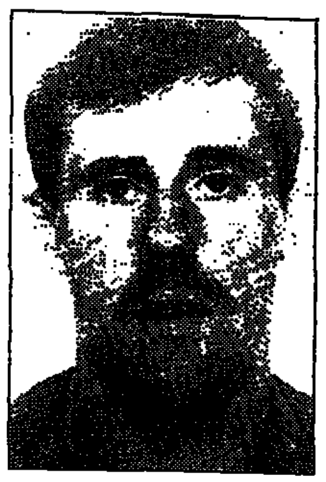
THE TIMES

No 63,906 FRIDAY JANUARY 4 1991 35p

Police keep open mind over Sheehy's death


Sheehy: hunt for most-wanted man ends

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

PATRICK SHEEHY, for the past three years Britain's most wanted man linked to a string of IRA bombings on mainland Britain, was confirmed yesterday as having been found dead in a small town in southwest Ireland. Irish police said the body of a man they found lying in the street with a gunshot wound to the head in Nenagh, Co Tipperary in the early hours of Wednesday, was that of Sheehy.

He was 30, and a plasterer by trade but better known as a marksman and bombmaker from Ballysteen in Co Limerick. He was found soaked in blood near the town's post office. The gun which apparently ended his life lay next to him. There was immediate controversy about the circumstances surrounding his death. Police reports on Wednesday initailly suggested that Sheehy, then unidentified, had committed suicide and a crime was not suspected. Last night, however, police sources in Dublin said they were keeping an open mind.

"As it stands at the moment, he's dead. There's a gun, there's a post mortem and ballistics tests yet to be carried out, and there is nothing to suggest at this stage it wasn't suicide," the source said.

In a statement, the IRA said it was investigating the circumstances of the death. "The Irish Republican Army confirms with deep regret that the man found dead in Nenagh, Co Tipperary on Wednesday, was one of our members, volunteer Patrick Sheehy," the statement said. "There are no further details available at the moment. The circumstances of his death are still being investigated."

There have been recent rumours that Sheehy was in dispute with senior IRA figures over his desire to continue in active service and their wish that he stand down because widespread publicity about his activities in Britain had made him a liability to the organisation.

There were other reports that Sheehy, who was reportedly determined never to be taken alive, had grown disillusioned with the political strategy of the IRA and may have been planning to set up his own paramilitary cell outside the aegis of the organisation based in the Limerick area. Some accounts have suggested he had tried to telephone a senior IRA member only hours before he died to say he intended to take his life.

Sheehy has been wanted by Scotland Yard ever since the discovery of an IRA bomb factory at Clapham in southwest London in December 1988, where a huge quantity of weapons and explosives were found together with Sheehy's passport.

After his narrow escape there, police have regularly issued descriptions and even photographs of him and have linked him to IRA bomb attacks on army barracks in London and Shropshire, on military figures in Europe and England and with the IRA plan to assassinate Tom King during his time as Northern Ireland secretary in 1987.

Sheehy was also a prime suspect in investigations into the IRA bombing of the Royal Marines School of Music at Walmer, near Deal, in Kent, in September 1989 in which 11 people died. Police described Sheehy and his colleagues who spearheaded IRA operations in Britain to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the army's intervention in Northern Ireland in August 1989 as armed and dangerous". Since the end of 1989, Sheehy appears to have gone to ground, probably in Ireland where he has been on the run from Irish police.

Report, page 3

Bush proposes direct talks with Iraq next week

By Martin Fletcher in Washington and Andrew McEwen

PRESIDENT Bush said yesterday he was ready for "one last attempt to go the extra mile for peace" and proposed direct talks with Iraq in Switzerland next week.

But as James Baker, the American Secretary of State, prepared to meet Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, it was clear that the president was heading for a serious confrontation with Congress which would only encourage President Saddam Hussein to stand firm.

At a blunt White House meeting yesterday, House and Senate leaders insisted that Congress alone had the constitutional power to declare war, a position they said Mr Bush rejected.

On receiving the proposal, the Iraqi government went into emergency session to consider it and the White House said it wanted an answer from Baghdad by tomorrow. News of the planned meeting brought a swift welcome from John Major and King Husain of Jordan, who met for talks in Downing Street yesterday.

The announcement somewhat overshadowed, and appeared to be an attempt to head off, today's meeting of European Community foreign ministers, which is to consider a European initiative on the Gulf. An Arab attempt at peacemaking was also in progress last night, under the auspices of Colonel Muammar Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, with President Mubarak of Egypt in attendance.

Congress, which was sworn in yesterday, cancelled its customary January recess. George Mitchell, the Senate majority leader, said there was a "substantive disagreement" between Congress and the White House over whether sanctions should be given more time to work. Backed by Tom Foley, the House Speaker, he said he doubted that Congress would pass a resolution giving the president "blank cheque" authority to commence military action, and predicted that it would debate a resolution of its own choosing, probably after next week's proposed meeting. This would almost certainly seek to limit the president's freedom of action.

Several congressional leaders said Mr Bush had given the impression of wanting to use force sooner, not later. Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont said: "I think for better or worse we've crossed the Rubicon. The question is not whether we're going to have a war, but when."

Mr Baker, speaking at the swearing-in ceremony for a new American ambassador to Kuwait, said he still hoped for a peaceful solution, but added: "The dark days of Iraq's cruel occupation are numbered."

Mr Bush's fresh offer of talks in Geneva on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday next week was discussed with Mr Major and President Mitterrand of France early yesterday morning and then delivered to Nizar Hamdoon, the Iraqi deputy foreign minister, by the American embassy in Baghdad. Iraq said the offer was being studied.

It came just 12 days before the United Nations deadline authorising force against Iraq and on the last of the 15 dates Mr Bush had originally proposed for Mr Baker to meet President Saddam in Baghdad. Iraq had offered only January 12 for such a meeting, a date the administration had rejected because it left too little time for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, said yesterday he was working quietly behind the scenes to resolve the impasse in the Gulf, but did not reveal what he was doing.

President Bush said in a prepared statement that no further efforts would be made to send Mr Baker to Baghdad. Noting that the Iraqi leader had seen numerous other visiting politicians at short notice, he accused President Saddam of having been more interested in "manipulating my (original) offer than in a serious response".

By now proposing compromise dates, Mr Bush risks appearing weak in Iraqi eyes, but he emphasised that the purpose of direct talks remained simply to convince President Saddam that if he did not withdraw there would be a war. There would be "no negotiations, no compromises, no attempts at face-saving and no rewards for aggression. What there will be if Iraq accepts this offer is, simply and importantly, an opportunity to resolve this crisis peacefully," he said.

Mr Baker was planning to go to Europe and the Gulf in any case next week for last-minute consultations with allies before the January 15 deadline, and the White House said that if the meeting with Mr Aziz took place he would hand over a letter from Mr Bush to President Saddam underlining American determination to see the UN resolutions implemented.

According to Senator Mitchell, the question of whether Mr Bush could go to war without congressional authority was "fully discussed and not resolved" at yesterday's White House meeting. Mr Bush said he would welcome a debate in which Congress adopted without amendment a broad UN-style resolution authorising the use of force if Iraq had not left Kuwait by January 15.

US suspicions, page 8
Diary, page 10
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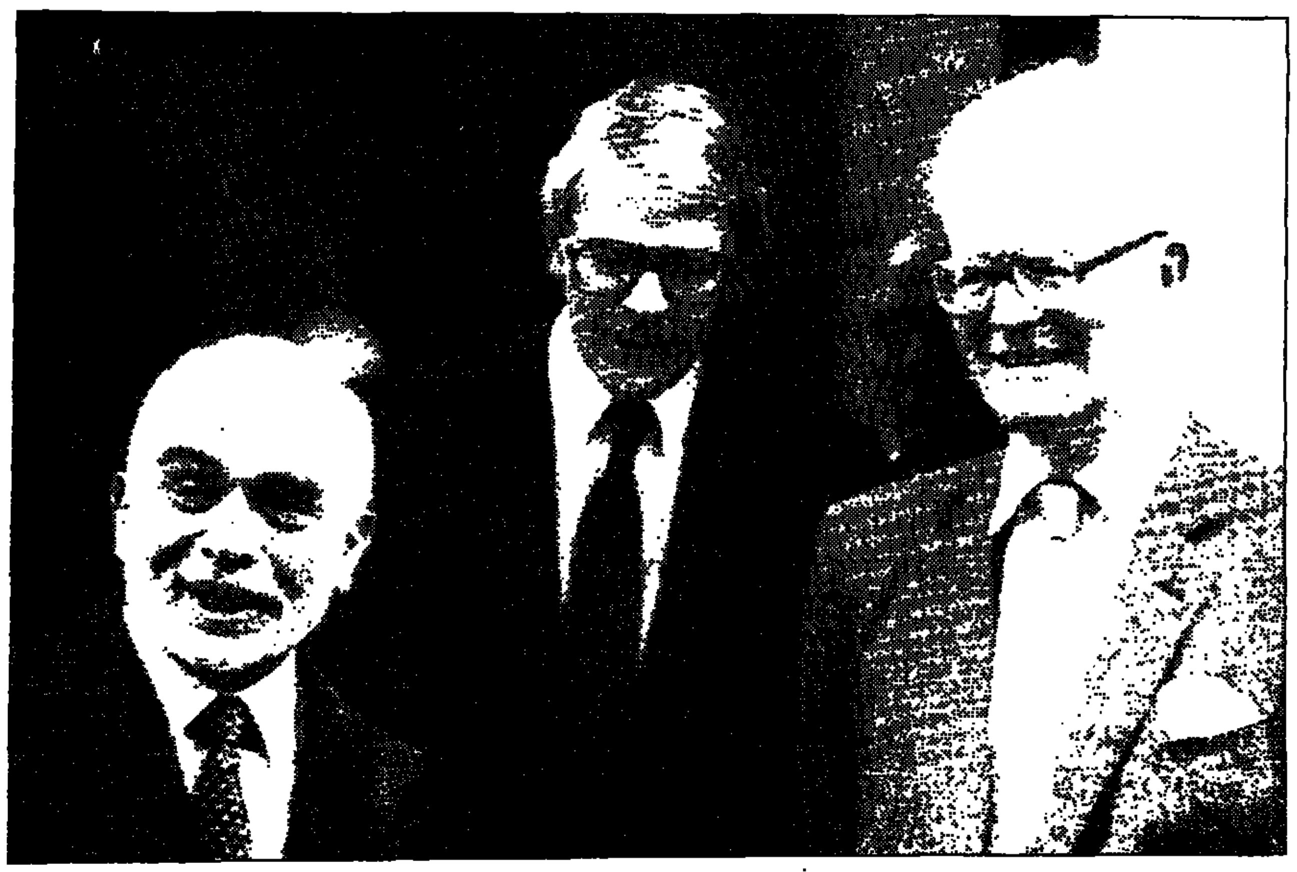
Letters, page 11

Baker: still hoping for a peaceful solution


Looking for answers: King Husain of Jordan with John Major and Douglas Hurd in Downing Street yesterday

Students and envoys expelled

By Our Diplomatic Editor

A THREAT by Baghdad to attack installations in Britain lay behind an announcement by the Foreign Office yesterday that eight members of the Iraqi embassy in London would be expelled with only 24 hours' notice.

At the same time, the Home Office announced the expulsions of 67 other Iraqis, mostly students, on the ground that their presence was "not conducive to the public good for reasons of national security". The Home Office would not say whether the expulsions were also linked to the Iraqi threats.

Whitehall sources said the government had strong evidence against the diplomats and a security guard but would not disclose details.

They said it was a coincidence that the move followed the voluntary departure from Baghdad last weekend of eight members of the British embassy. This was done because only 17 British residents remained in Iraq and 30 in Kuwait, leaving the diplomats with less work to do. However, it was also a precaution against exposing more diplomats than necessary to the risk of war.

Most of the Iraqi diplomats expelled worked in the embassy's press department in London, including those who had been helping British journalists to obtain visas to visit Baghdad. Some British journalists in the Iraqi capital have been advised to leave for their own security, mainly by American sources.

However a Whitehall source insisted that there were no ulterior motives in the choice of those expelled. Nor was it a tit-for-tat measure

Continued on page 18, col 6

Gorbachev wins accord to break budget deadlock

From Mary Dejevsky and Bruce Clark in Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachev said last night that the central authorities and the republics had agreed the principles of forming the Soviet Union's budget for 1991.

Mr Gorbachev's announcement came after a four-hour meeting of the Council of the Federation, the policy-making body whose powers were increased as a result of last week's constitutional changes.

The president indicated, however, that the formation of a new government structure — the Cabinet of Ministers — would take longer than expected. The first appointments had been due early next week and the task of overseeing the reorganisation has been entrusted to the newly-appointed Vice-President, Gennadi Yanayev.

A clearly-satisfied Mr Gorbachev said that agreement had been reached on "the basic parameters of prices, taxes and social guarantees". Principles had also been found that constituted "a basis for forming a union budget and the budgets of the republics".

Last week the largest republic, the Russian Federation, threatened to cut its contribution to the 1991 central budget by more than 80 per cent compared with last year. The two largest Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as the Ukraine, threatened to follow suit, leaving the Soviet exchequer with the possibility of meeting less than a fifth of its projected bills.

No details were available of the outline agreement or its duration. A resolution passed by the full Soviet parliament last week called for the conclusion of a "temporary economic agreement" for 1991 because of the discord. Mr Gorbachev suggested yesterday that, while many basics had been approved, areas of conflict remained.

Representatives of all 15 republics were said to have attended yesterday's Council of the Federation meeting, including the Russian Federation leader, Boris Yeltsin, and representatives of all three Baltic States and Georgia.

A spokesman for the Baltic republic of Lithuania said that the republic's official representative in Moscow had attended the meeting but not participated. Lithuania insists that it will not participate in an overall Soviet economic budget agreement, but would be prepared to conclude a bilateral economic agreement with Moscow.

Israeli envoy, page 7

Study casts doubt on global-warming floods

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE belief that global warming will inevitably lead to rises in sea levels, flooding many low-lying areas of land, was thrown into doubt yesterday as a result of research at Edinburgh university.

Much of the furore over global warming has been due to predictions of cities being flooded as oceans rise by up to a metre, fed by melting ice from the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets.

Yesterday, David Sugden and Nick Hulton of the geography department at Edinburgh university presented a different picture to the Institute of British Geographers conference being held at Sheffield.

Their studies suggest that the East Antarctic ice sheet may actually grow, rather than shrinking, as the temperature warms up, and that the Greenland ice sheet, if it melts at all, will do so very slowly over thousands of years.

Sea level surprise, page 4

Another hard year for the royal family firm

By Robin Young

THERE were 2,946 royal occasions in the United Kingdom last year, and 11 members of the royal family kept another 1,112 engagements on official tours abroad.

The most prodigious workload, in terms of numbers of engagements, was shouldered by the Princess Royal. There were 253 working days excluding weekends, public and bank holidays in 1990, and during the year the princess undertook 768 engagements, 449 in the United Kingdom and 319 abroad.

Even more remarkable, though, was the achievement of the Queen Mother, who managed more appointments last year, when she celebrated her 90th birthday, than she did ten years ago. Last year her total reached 118, against 110 in 1980.

The log book of regal effort is maintained by Tim O'Donovan, a London insurance broker, who spends an evening a week through the year analysing the royal engagements reported in *The Times* Court Circular, and itineraries of official tours abroad.

Mr O'Donovan has been running his time and motion study of the royal family since 1979. As keeper of the royal job cards he has become, in effect, an unpaid and unofficial auxiliary to the Buckingham Palace press relations staff, fielding queries from press and public about royal workloads and not infrequently correcting misconceptions about the onerous nature of royal duties.

The bare statistics, he emphasises, cannot tell the whole story, because royal engagements are so varied. Some, such as the Queen's investitures, may require long hours of detailed preparation beforehand, occupying much of the previous day as well as the whole of the morning, yet still counting as a single engagement. There is no such thing as a royal holiday, Mr O'Donovan insists. His re-

Continued on page 18, col 1

Royal Family Engagements 1990

	A	B	C	D	E	F
The Queen	125	59	292	28	94	476
Duke of Edinburgh	148	113	33	77	260	294
The Queen Mother	63	38	17	2	4	118
Prince of Wales	64	46	135	37	144	245
Princess of Wales	162	46	26	22	89	234
Duke of York	18	5	-	4	6	23
Duchess of York	61	10	14	16	23	85
Prince Edward	74	28	4	35	113	106
Princess Royal	303	63	83	82	319	449
Princess Margaret	106	33	9	4	6	148
Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester	43	10	13	-	-	66
Duke of Gloucester	127	37	8	25	n/a	172
Duchess of Gloucester	88	21	10	-	-	119
Duke of Kent	119	33	20	27	n/a	172
Duchess of Kent	106	25	6	13	n/a	137
Princess of Alexandra	68	22	12	29	54	102

A: official visits, opening ceremonies, other appearances; B: receptions, lunches, banquets; C: other engagements including investitures; D: days abroad on official tours; E: engagements on official tours abroad; F: engagements in UK.

INSIDE

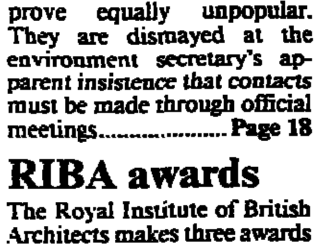
Tory dismay at Heseltine

Michael Heseltine has rebuffed invitations to hold private talks to discuss the government's review of the poll tax, according to Conservative local government leaders who fear any alternative to the community charge could prove equally unpopular. They are dismayed at the environment secretary's apparent insistence that contacts must be made through official meetings........................Page 18

RIBA awards

The Royal Institute of British Architects makes three awards today for "world-class buildings"........................Page 5

Bound for Gulf


Surgeon Lieutenant Kathy Blaydes (above), the Royal Navy's first woman doctor to serve on board ship, set sail for the Gulf yesterday.......Page 8

Rebels fight on

The main rebel group fighting to overthrow President Siad Barre of Somalia rejected calls for a ceasefire yesterday as prospects increased of a battle to the death..................Page 9

Tsarist parallels

President Gorbachev's rule "resembles more and more the death throes of the Romanov dynasty", writes Janet Daley, whose weekly column starts today...............Page 10

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SATURDAY

After now comes then

Remember post-modernism? A joke, some said: if modern is now, how can anything be post now? But post-modernism lives, as does the search for a definition. Bryan Appleyard begins an enlightening series
SATURDAY REVIEW

Redford is as Redford was

Robert Redford on his new film and on the childhood beliefs that have stayed with him
SATURDAY REVIEW

Winter in the garden

Francesca Greenoak with some tips on pruning, with shears, without tears
SATURDAY REVIEW

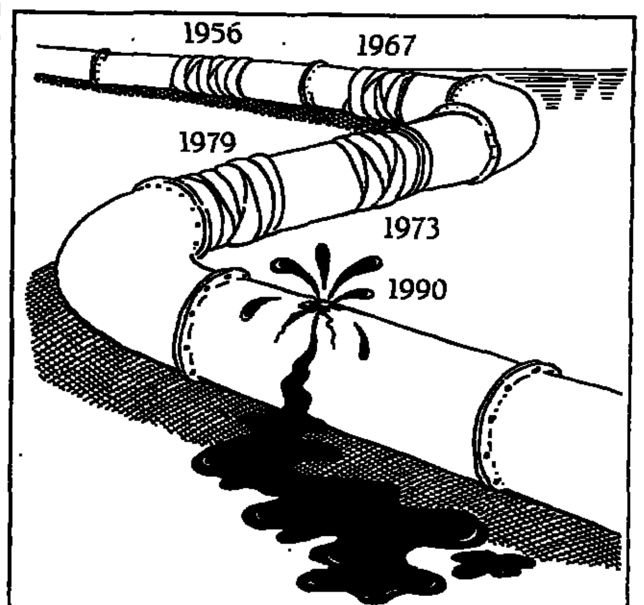
If it flies it's an art gallery

'If it's got wings, flies, and isn't a bird, then it has my undivided attention.' So says Roger Markman, who has opened a gallery devoted entirely to aeroplane art
WEEKEND LIVING

Coe's names to look for

Sebastian Coe looks forward to the sporting year and names some of its likeliest big (or bigger) names
SATURDAY SPORT

Order tomorrow's *Times* today



When will we ever learn?

Oil supplies to the West have been disrupted with alarming frequency since Suez in '56.

Prices have spiralled and during the course of the current crisis the price of oil has doubled.

Such volatility can have a knock-on effect on the price of gas as it did, for example, after the Iranian revolution in 1979.

But there is one major source of energy, nuclear power, whose cost is unlikely to be affected by events in the Middle East.

The raw material for Britain's nuclear fuel, uranium, comes from countries such as Canada, Australia and the USA.

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The voice of Britain's nuclear power industry.

Curriculum 'a threat to reading of great books'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

ENGLISH literature's "great tradition" is under threat from the national curriculum designed to improve English standards in schools, according to a group of university lecturers. They believe students will be unable to cope with degree courses.

"Our fear is that the national curriculum is not promoting the reading of books and that students will emerge lacking the skills they require to read English at university," said Tom Healy, chairman of the Council for University English.

Dr Healy's concerns are shared by Martin Dodsworth, professor of English at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London university, who told this week's *Times Higher Education Supplement* : "The consequences for literary education are very grave".

Professor Dodsworth, chairman of the English Association, has written to MPs and heads of English departments explaining that only 20 per cent of the curriculum for five to 16-year-olds will be literature-based. "Thinking about texts is a sophisticated literary operation," said Professor Dodsworth. "If schoolchildren are not taught to read great books, the consequence will be an erosion of our national culture."

Dr Healy, of Birkbeck College, London, said: "Children will be encouraged to analyse passages, but there will be no encouragement to read whole books. The literary content of the courses will be minimal. This is very worrying indeed."

Brian Cox, professor of English at Manchester university and chairman of the national curriculum working party on English, said that he believed current English courses would be phased out. "There will be much more emphasis on the craft of writing. The essay will no longer be seen as the only form. There will be variety: diaries, biographical writing, fiction. Creative writing will have to become a big part of university degree courses."

Under the GCE O level examination, pupils sat two papers, one in language and one in literature, but that has been replaced by a combined GCSE. The new curriculum will concentrate on teaching children to be articulate, and to write clearly using correct spelling and grammar. The academics fear that those changes will have a direct effect on A-levels, which will leave students unprepared for the study of literary texts.

The education department said last night: "These academics are slightly misdirected. Under the national curriculum, all children for the first time will be doing a GCSE in English that will have an element of literature. Until now, there has been no requirement for children to do English at GCSE, and for those children who wish to do so, there will remain a GCSE in English literature in addition to the combined paper. Children will do more literature, not less."

☐ Schools seeking freedom and extra benefits by opting out of local authority control could find themselves trapped in government bureaucracy run by ministerial placemen, unelected and unaccountable, Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said yesterday.

He said that a small number of schools receiving their funding directly from central government could be handled with a light touch and given extra help, but if the number rose to a large proportion of the country's 25,000 schools, a new bureaucracy would be required to run them, leading to the nationalisation of local schools.

Insistence on A-levels 'restricting colleges'

GOVERNMENT insistence on retaining A-levels as the gold standard of British education is seriously limiting the number of young people who can enter higher education and training, Lady Blackstone, Master of Birkbeck College, London, said yesterday (David Tytler writes).

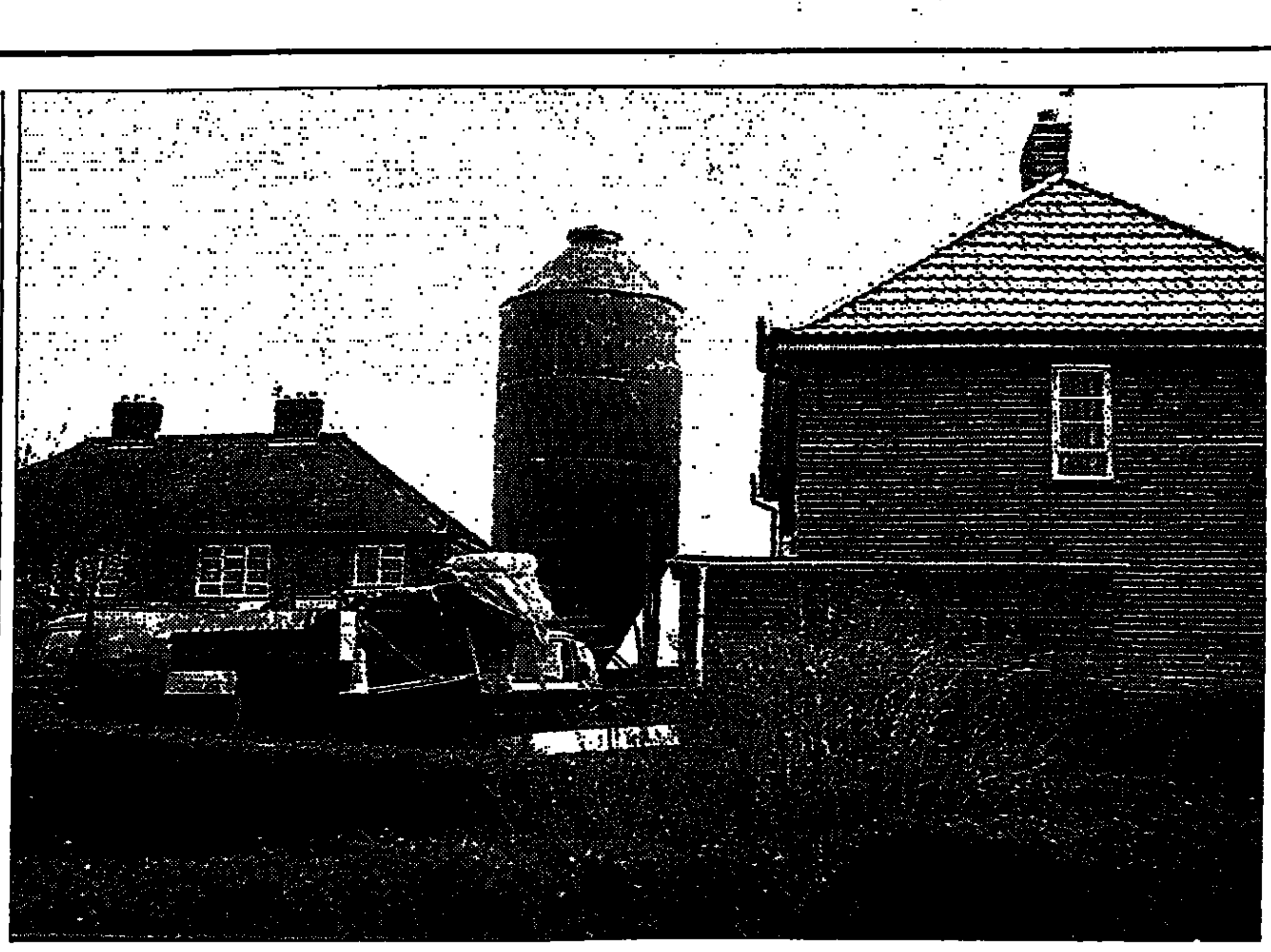
Britain's poor staying-on rates could only be improved by a radical rethink of higher education policy, she told the North of England Education Conference in Leeds. Universities and polytechnics should admit students with alternative qualifications, open up courses to part-timers and allow older adults to enrol without formal qualifications, Lady Blackstone said.

She said that many children put off by A-levels would be attracted by vocational courses that could lead to academic courses. Consideration should also be given to introducing two-year degree courses for all students; some would go into employment or professional training while others would continue with higher-level academic study leading to an honours degree.

Lady Blackstone, a Labour peer, said that one of the biggest increases should be in part-time studies for older people. "The pool of potential people capable of benefiting from return-to-study is without doubt greater than those who currently come forward," she said. "More must be done to encourage those adults who missed out earlier."

Universities and polytechnics should first abandon the idea that those potential students ought to have A-level qualifications, and should be prepared to accept some candidates who "on paper look marginal". Then, part-time courses should be held at times to suit older people who worked while studying.

Higher education would expand in the Nineties. However, the growth, unlike that in the Sixties and the Seventies, would not just be more of the same, but would draw on people from new sources.



Unwelcome extension: a silo built in the back garden of a house in March 1990 to store sand for a sandblasting business. It remained there for six months before the owner gave in to pressure from the council and residents

Planning cowboys face swift justice

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

BUILDERS and home-owners who flout planning regulations will be punished by magistrates within weeks of breaking the law, if a campaign by planners succeeds.

The District Planning Officers' Society, which represents planners at 334 district councils in England and Wales, said that buildings were being put up in ways that ruined the lives of neighbours and destroyed attractive areas of towns and villages. The perpetrators knew that it would be months or years before the law caught up with them.

Only in the most exceptional cases would they face court action and then the outcome was almost always a small fine. A few cases ended with the building being demolished.

The society's campaign will seek support among backbench MPs for an amendment to the new planning and compensation bill, which is due to enter its committee stage in the Lords this month.

The amendment would give councils the power to take offenders to magistrates' courts within weeks of building work beginning. They could be heavily fined and ordered to stop work and demolish the building.

Michael Haslam, chief planning officer for South Norfolk district council, said: "We are not trying to land ordinary people in court. In most cases people who break the law because they do not realise they need permission are very amicable and we agree a solution.

"But there is a hard core of cowboys who do not care about anyone else and are just out to make money for themselves. They are the sort of people who are not bothered by a council notice telling them to stop."

John Sykes, chief planning officer of West Oxfordshire district council, said it could take up to six months before a council could issue an enforcement notice, the first formal step in preventing unauthorised building.

The process could then be stalled for a further 37 weeks if the person involved appealed to the environment secretary. In one case, it had taken four years to deal with an illegal development. "However much the administrative side is streamlined, it all takes far too long," he said. "While complaints stream in from parish councils and irate neighbours, the cumbersome procedures follow their course like a hippopotamus stuck in a quagmire."

He criticised government guidelines that advised councils to use enforcement only as a last resort, particularly where the offender was a small business. That led to councils being forced to offer offenders a chance to apply retrospectively to legitimise development that should never have taken place.

Mr Haslam added: "We cannot take legal action until the enforcement notice has been confirmed and that can take two years. Even when we get there, the courts are notoriously reluctant to impose large fines." His council received an average of 140 complaints a year, of which about 20 led to the issuing of enforcement notices and only two or three eventually ended in court. He said: "If we get this power it will be used sensibly."

Squeeze threatens survey of crime

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Whitehall spending squeeze is threatening the most authoritative indicator of British crime patterns, a survey that suggests that police figures often greatly exaggerate how many offences are being committed.

Under a plan put to the Treasury late last year, the Home Office-funded British Crime Survey (BCS) would have doubled in size and been given a permanent budget allowing the audits to be done strictly every three years.

It emerged yesterday that Treasury ministers vetoed the plan, under which the cost of surveys would have tripled to £1.2 million. Because most of the Home Office's 1991-2 research budget is now committed, there is a risk that the next BCS may be postponed.

Leading university-based criminologists yesterday reacted to the news with horror, saying that the next survey, fieldwork for which was due to start in January 1992, was particularly important because it would permit correlations with 1991 census data. The BCS counts offences committed in the preceding year. Tony Bottoms, professor of criminology at Cambridge university, said: "It would be absolute madness if the survey is not done next year."

The BCS, based on interviews with householders, has received growing interest in recent years. The first three studies, conducted in 1982, 1984 and 1988, showed that police figures overstated crime levels, sometimes grossly so. The latest indicated that assaults causing woundings rose by 12 per cent between 1981 and 1987, not by the 40 per cent that police recorded.

Home Office civil servants were said yesterday to be seeking ways to juggle their 1991-2 budget to fund the survey.

Winds of 80mph for weekend

Winds of up to 80 miles an hour and heavy rain are expected this evening and tomorrow. The Meteorological Office predicted last night that Saturday's weather will be similar to that of Christmas day.

The winds are expected to hit hardest in northern England, particularly the North-West, and southern Scotland. "We are expecting gusts of 60mph to 70mph inland, with 80mph winds on the coast," the Met office said.

The National Rivers Authority had not issued any flood warnings last night but was monitoring the situation. The Severn burst its banks at Worcester yesterday, prompting fears of a repeat of severe flooding last year. Homes and businesses were preparing for the worst as the river rose several feet above its normal level. It was expected to a peak at midnight.

Driver spared

A disqualified motorist arrested while driving with an alcohol level nearly five times the legal limit escaped jail yesterday, sparking new calls from road safety campaigners for mandatory prison terms for those flouting the law. Norman Walsh, aged 28, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, received a six-month suspended sentence, a five-year ban and a £400 fine for his second conviction in six months.

Case thrown out

A senior policeman was cleared of shoplifting yesterday after a psychiatrist spoke in his defence. Magistrates at Wimborne, Dorset, threw out the case against Chief Inspector Roger Parnell, aged 48, after hearing that he had been suffering from depression. Mr Parnell had denied stealing £2.56 of groceries from a supermarket at Dorchester in August last year.

CORRECTION

Dr Cahal Daly, the Primate of All Ireland, was wrongly described as Cardinal on Wednesday.

Poll tax defaulter wins appeal for wrongful seizure

By NICHOLAS WATT

A COMMUNITY charge defaulter who had goods removed from his home by bailiffs last September after he failed to pay the tax won a court appeal yesterday against the London borough of Wandsworth for wrongful seizure of goods.

Stephen Crosby, aged 43, from Wimbledon, southwest London, hailed the decision by Wells Street magistrates as "the start of getting rid of the poll tax".

On September 18 last year, two bailiffs visited Mr Crosby's family home on behalf of Wandsworth council to collect outstanding poll tax bills owed by him and his family. Mr Crosby was out at the time but his son, Lyndon, aged 24, a trainee bailiff at the time, initially refused the men entry. When they called the police, however, he offered a post-dated cheque for the outstanding amount.

The bailiffs refused the cheque, and seized stereo equipment, a television and ornamental goods in the name of Mr Crosby senior and his wife Susan. Those were later sold. Graham White, the bailiff who appeared in court as a witness yesterday, said he had listed the goods in the name of Stephen and Susan Crosby, as Lyndon Crosby had said they belonged to them when he first visited the family last August.

However, David Fingleton, the stipendiary magistrate, yesterday upheld Mr Crosby's appeal that the stereo system belonged to his son, Wayne, aged 20, and awarded him £310 compensation on behalf of his son.

Mr Fingleton said that he was not satisfied that the bailiffs had done enough to find out who owned the goods. Lyndon Crosby told the court that he had informed the bailiffs on their second visit in September that they were seizing his brother's goods in his father's name.

Mr White told the court, however, that he had asked who the goods belonged to and nobody had answered. Of his first visit in August, Mr White said: "I think I asked whose the goods were."

Mr Fingleton said it was vital that bailiffs found out whose property they were taking when seizing goods to enforce payment of the community charge.

Courts 'need more cash to cope with cases'

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES' courts in England and Wales need an injection of government money to cope with the flood of poll tax cases, the Association of District Councils said yesterday.

The 331 district councils in the association expect to have taken more than one million people to court for not paying the tax by the end of this financial year.

It says that the Home Office has failed to make additional funds available for extra courtrooms and magistrates to deal with the cases. As a result, courts were having to "block book" poll tax cases, with one bench dealing with up to 100 cases in a single day, and defaulters appearing in the dock ten at a time.

The Conservative-controlled association said that it would redouble its efforts to persuade Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to make extra resources available. It added that, in Scotland, the number of people failing to pay in the second year of the poll tax had been greater than in the first. "We are worried that, by next year, things will be worse and it will be too late to do anything to help the courts cope," an association spokesman said.

The Home Office said, however, that it believed that, after initial difficulties in some areas, the enforcement system was settling down well and that courts had adequate resources to cope. A spokesman said: "A lot of people coming before the courts would like to argue that they cannot afford to pay the community charge, but those are not matters which are legally any concern of the court."

Network agreement 'threat to ITV independents'

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A NEW market-driven system for selling television programmes to the ITV national network would lower quality standards and might force some licensees out of business, a senior broadcaster has said.

The system was agreed in principle last month by the majority of the 15 regional ITV companies. David Elstein, director of programming at Thames Television, said that the cost of buying programmes for the network from ITV companies and independents would rise sharply under the proposed central scheduling plan, as it would deprive ITV companies of their guaranteed right to commission and schedule their own programmes for a national audience. He said that ITV companies, and those challenging them for the new Channel 3 licences to be awarded later this year, are in grave danger of overbidding.

Shaw: "Price of bidding is million-dollar question"

"Some could go bust if they fail to sell enough programmes to the network while being forced to pay much higher prices for network programming," he said.

David Shaw, director of the Independent Television Association, said: "How high companies will bid is the million dollar question." The new agreement would not be set in stone until after the ITV bidders handed in their applications. If the price of a network programme is dictated purely by ratings and how much advertising revenue it attracts, as recommended by the Office of Fair Trading, which must approve the network agreement, a significantly higher proportion of a fixed annual network budget of about £450 million will be devoted to such popular programmes as *Coronation Street*, *The Bill*, *Blind Date*, *Inspector Morse* and *Wish You Were Here*.

Mr Elstein said: "All high-cost, low-ratings productions will disappear out of peak time, with current affairs programmes like *World In Action* sure to be marginalised in the schedule. High-ratings productions will soak up the bulk of the budget, with little left over for second-tier production.

"Instead of 200 hours of original drama on ITV there will be 120 hours with 80 hours of repeats, which will also cost money. That will probably drive ITV's audience share down. It will also make a mockery of detailed ITC [Independent Television Commission] programme codes and the quality threshold, except for regional programming," Mr Elstein said.

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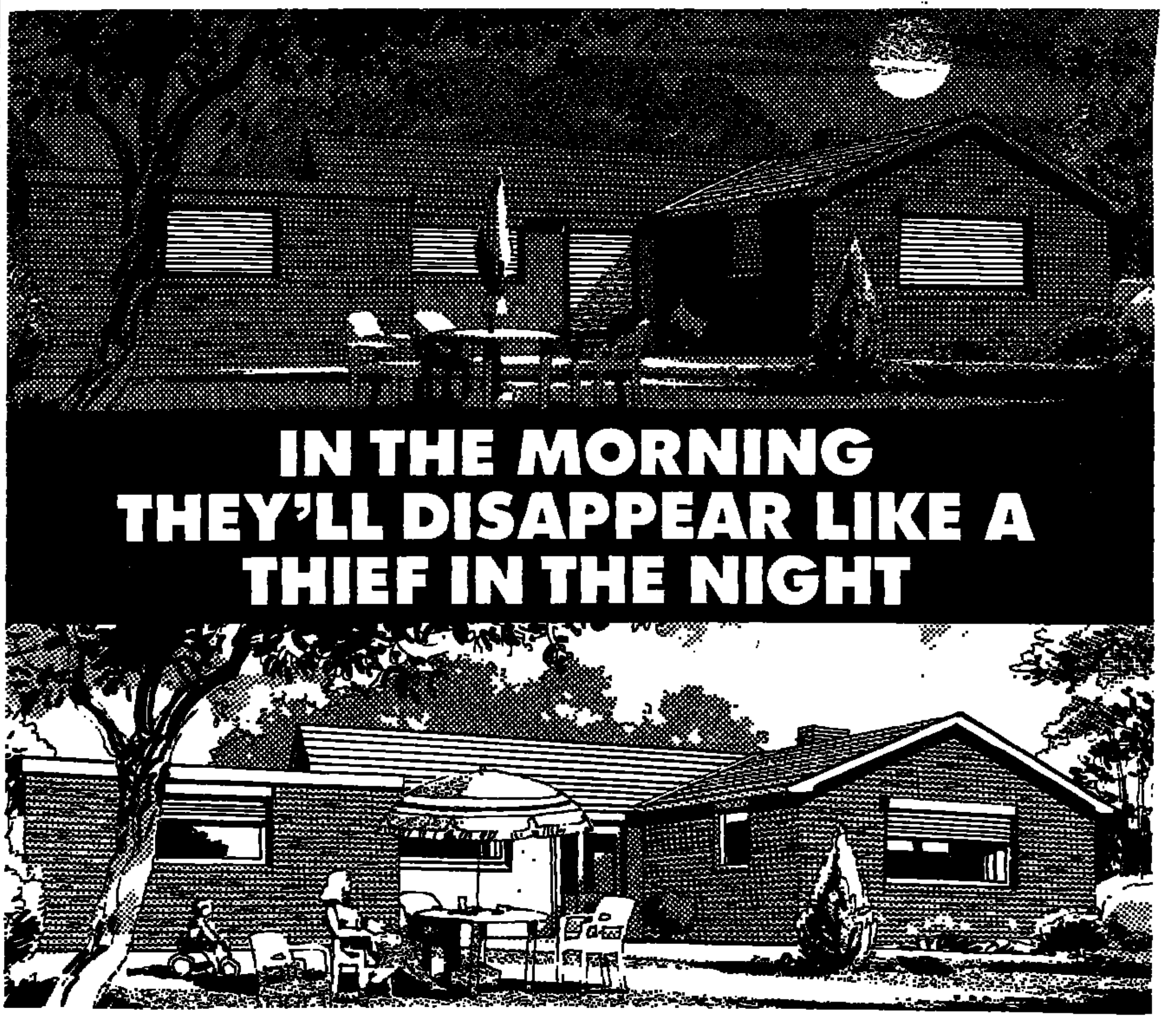

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Sheehy death in an Irish village ends hunt for Britain's most wanted criminal

Loner linked to a string of attacks by the IRA

By Edward Gorman and David Young

PATRICK Sheehy, found dead in the Irish Republic on Wednesday, was Britain's most wanted criminal. He was linked to a string of IRA bombings and other incidents on mainland Britain as far back as 1987.

During his years of notoriety, Sheehy, variously described as a loner, a maverick or a fanatic, became a fantasy figure who seemed able to evade detection by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and by Irish police with ease and carry out a succession of dramatic and deadly attacks.

His name, together with that of an accomplice, the alleged explosive and bomb making expert John Conaghty, who is still on the run, frequently appeared in front page news stories as the prime suspect in the latest IRA atrocity on the mainland.

There were reports of Sheehy being involved with IRA plans to assassinate Tom King, then Northern Ireland Secretary, in 1987, and in the bombing of the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal in 1989 which left 11 dead. He was also being sought by Irish police in connection with a failed kidnapping attempt on a Dublin businessman.

Sheehy, who was also linked to IRA activities in Europe, was reported at one stage to have travelled to Libya where he was said to have worked as an explosive instructor at a training camp run by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

Unless the IRA choose to reveal the full details of his career, it may never be known how much of this was fact or fantasy. Yesterday Scotland Yard objected to the title "Britain's most wanted man", saying that there was no pecking order for to people it urgently wants to interview. "Sheehy was somebody we were very, very anxious to speak to," a spokesman said.

Sheehy, who was from the tiny village of Ballysteen on the banks of the Shannon in Co Limerick, was chosen by the IRA for active service in Britain because he was relatively unknown in the republic, had no serious criminal record and had never been fingerprinted. His association with militant republicanism ran only to selling Sinn Fein's weekly newspaper *An Phoblacht* in Limerick.

Born in 1960 to a family of eight children, he grew up to become a plasterer. He was about 5ft 11in tall, walked with a slight stoop, had brown hair, prominent teeth and a muscular build. He wore silver framed glasses.

In his native Ballysteen, locals still find it hard to reconcile the man they knew with the crimes he was suspected of committing. One said: "He was a nice chap as far as I remember him. He was not connected with IRA in any way that I know of. I do not think he would be involved in the kind of things they are talking about."

Sheehy moved to the top of Scotland Yard's most-wanted list in December 1988 after police found his passport with a signature matching the handwriting on a hit list of more than 100 prominent people, including Margaret Thatcher, in an IRA bomb factory at a house in Clapham, southwest London. It was his fingerprints that were found in the flat tha led to the identification of his body yesterday.

Together with Conaghty, Sheehy, is thought to have fled the flat where more than 100lb of Semtex high explosive, detonators, timers, machine guns, revolvers and armalite rifles were found. He is thought to have taken about 25lb of Semtex with him.

After that, Sheehy was linked by police to the IRA bomb attack on Inglis army barracks at Mill Hill in northwest London in August 1988 in which one soldier died and nine were injured; the shooting of a soldier at Ostend shortly afterwards; the attempted bombing of Tern Hill barracks in Shropshire in Ferbuary 1989; the Deal bombing the following September, and the car bombing in Colchester in November which seriously injured an army staff sergeant.

Other attacks with which Sheehy's name was linked included the machine-gun attack on Sir Peter Terry, the former Governor of Gibraltar, at his home in Staffordshire in September last year, and an attempt to kill Lieutenant General Sir David Ramsbotham, in November 1989. Police believe that Sheehy may have been the fourth member of an IRA surveillance team watching the Wiltshire home of Tom King, then Northern Ireland secretary, in 1987.

In July 1989 Hampshire police issued a photograph of Sheehy and Conaghty together with an artist's impression of a third man and a description of a woman who police believe was shielding Sheehy. They described Sheehy as "armed and dangerous" and said that he might be planning bomb attacks on army bases in Britain that summer.

A bullet hole in the telephone box at Nenagh where Sheehy's body was found; his relatives leaving the local mortuary after identifying him

Most wanted men shot or sentenced

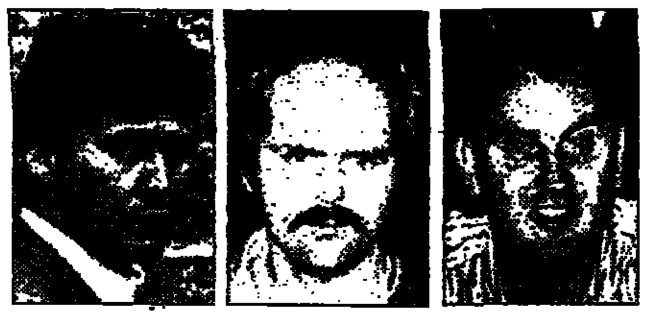
By Ray Clancy

PREVIOUS holders of the infamous title — the most wanted terrorist — have, like Patrick Sheehy, either been killed or sentenced to long prison terms.

One of the most ruthless most wanted men was Dessie O'Hare, nicknamed the Border Fox because he successfuly evaded capture on many occasions. In the early 1980s he was linked by the police with scores of terrorist incidents in Northern Ireland and the republic, and a huge search was made after John O'Grady, a Dublin dentist, was kidnapped. He was held to ransom by O'Hare and other members of a gang which chopped off two of his fingers. In 1988 O'Hare was jailed for 40 years.

Dominic McGlinchey, the former leader of the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army, was also known as the No 1 terrorist. Police wanted to question him in connection with 28 murders, 30 shootings and 11 bombings. He was jailed for 10 years in March 1986 for firearms offences. After becoming the first man to be extradited from the south to face terrorist charges, he was found guilty of the murder of an elderly postmistress in 1977 but was freed on appeal after serving nine months. He was re-arrested in March 1984 and jailed two years later after another extradition process.

More recently Desmond Grew was described as one of the IRA's most dangerous men. He was shot dead by the army last year. The police had linked him with numerous murders and kidnaps in Ireland and the West German police wanted him in connection with the shooting of an RAF corporal and his six-month-old daughter at a military base. His fingerprints were also found on furniture in a flat in The Hague.



The terror trio: O'Hare, McGlinchey and Grew

Lying low in rural community

POLICE believe that Patrick Sheehy had spent some time on the run in Nenagh, a market town with a population of 6,000 in Co Tipperary.

The town would have been big enough for him to escape the notice of the local police during nearly two years as a fugitive and it was close enough to his home village of Ballysteen, in Co Limerick, for him to keep in touch with associates.

Sheehy was found lying in a pool of blood outside the town's Post Office. By his side lay a Czech-made Taurus pistol. He was wearing jeans and a denim jacket and silver-rimmed spectacles were found in a pocket.

The villagers of Ballysteen said they were stunned when British police named Sheehy as a top IRA suspect. They knew "Paddy" as a hard worker from a decent family who had done building jobs locally before leaving the area.

"People are shocked by the allegations;" one local said. "I don't believe that Patrick Sheehy would ever have pulled a trigger."

London car bombs mastermind buried

By Peter Victor

DAVID O'Connell, the former IRA leader who masterminded the London car bombing campaigns, was buried in Dublin yesterday. A lone gunman fired a shot outside a church in a traditional farewell to Mr O'Connell, who died at his Dublin home on New Year's eve.

Mr O'Connell, aged 53, a key figure in the IRA during some of its worst outrages in the early 1970s, was buried in the republican section of Glasnevin cemetery. His coffin was draped in the Irish flag and flanked by a guard of honour in paramilitary uniform.

A school teacher with three children, he was a republican with a hatred of the British. Although frequently described as the IRA chief of staff, he was actually its director of intelligence. As the provisional IRA's strategy co-ordinator, he ordered the mainland bombing campaign that peaked in the mid 1970s.

He was thought still to have been influential in 1982, when 11 guardsmen were killed by bombs in Hyde Park. By then, however, his role was reduced to that of a figurehead, according to Ian Geldard of the journal *Terror Update*. "He was involved in the negotiation of a ceasefire in 1975 and lost a lot of face. The whole thing was blamed on the southern leaders' group and, by 1977, the leadership had slipped out of their hands." He left the Provisional Sinn Fein four years ago to form the breakaway Republican Sinn Fein group, a small group with little influence.

Police were on duty yesterday to prevent the IRA turning the funeral into a showpiece with volleys of shots over the grave. Among the many mourners was Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader.

● Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, will receive a peace prize in the Irish Republic because his efforts have brought new hope to the province. He has been chosen for the award, made annually by the Tipperary Peace Convention, for his continuing efforts for new political dialogue in Ulster.

THE SHEEHY CRIME DOSSIER

THE Scotland Yard file on Patrick Sheehy will never be closed officially as investigations into the many crimes attributed to him continue in the search for his accomplices (David Young writes).

Since he became "active" in London in 1988 he is thought to have been involved in the following incidents:

August 1, 1988: soldier killed at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, north London.

December 20, 1988: police discover IRA bomb factory and arms cache in Clapham, south London. Man who fitted Sheehy's description was seen running away.

February 21, 1989: three bombs went off at Ternhill Army Barracks, Shropshire.

September 22, 1989: bomb exploded at the Royal Marines School of Music, Deal, Kent. Eleven killed and 60 injured.

November 15, 1989: bomb planted under senior army officer's car outside home in Kelso Place, London. It did not explode.

June 1 1990: soldier shot dead and another injured at railway station in Lichfield, Staffordshire.

July 29, 1990: Ian Gow, MP, killed in car bomb outside his home in Hankham, East Sussex.

September 17, 1990: army colour sergeant shot as he left a recruiting office in Finchley, north London.

September 18, 1990: machine-gun attack on Sir Peter Terry, former governor of Gibraltar, at his home in Staffordshire.

January 3, 1991: Patrick Sheehy found dead in Nenagh, Co Tipperary.

Revenue to spend £7m on tax-saving advice

By Lindsay Cook
MONEY EDITOR

THE Inland Revenue is spending £7 million on an unprecedented advertising campaign to convince 15 million savers that they should pay less tax.

As part of the campaign, the taxman embarked on his first television advertisements yesterday to persuade the 15 million bank and building society savers who are non-taxpayers to register so that no tax is deducted from the interest they earn when composite rate tax is abolished on April 6.

At present banks and building societies withdraw the composite rate tax at 22 per cent from interest paid to all savers; when the tax is scrapped, non-taxpayers, mainly pensioners, women and children, will be credited with the full interest on their savings, and taxpayers will be charged 25 per cent at source.

The advertisements, from the D'Arcy Masius Benton and Bowles agency, will be shown mainly on daytime and early evening television.

Launching the campaign yesterday, Francis Maude, financial secretary to the Treasury, said: "It isn't every day that the government spends money telling people how to avoid paying tax." Abolition of composite rate tax, which was announced in last year's Budget by the then chancellor, John Major, would benefit more than a quarter of the population, he said.

Later this month every household will receive a leaflet explaining the tax changes and who should register for gross payment of interest. It will include a form to register as a non-taxpayer. The Inland Revenue estimates that 4.75 million retired people, 4.5 million non-working wives, 3.25 million children and 2.5 million other people, including students with incomes below tax levels, will benefit.

Mr Maude said that the campaign was much more cost-effective than taking on staff to deal with people failing to register. The Revenue will open 24 offices with 5,500 extra staff to deal with tax refunds to people who do not register.

Cornea transplanted from blind man's left eye to right in unique operation

By Peter Davenport

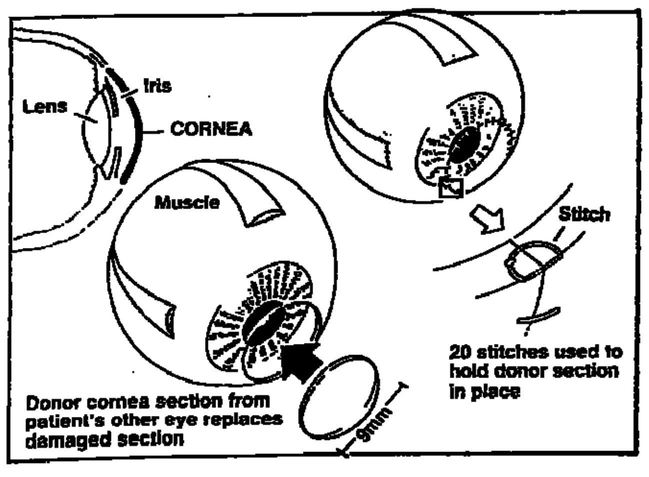
SURGEONS who yesterday tried to restore the sight of a blind man by performing a transplant using the cornea from one of his own eyes claimed it was the first time the technique had been used.

Frank Melon, aged 72, was recovering last night in the North Riding infirmary, Middlesborough, after a three-hour operation during which the cornea from his left eye was transplanted into his right.

The ophthalmic surgeon, David Smerdon, said that he was able to carry out the operation only because of the "freak of nature" which had left Mr Melon totally blind in both eyes, but for different reasons.

The retina in his left eye had failed, while the cornea in the right was damaged. A routine transplant operation last year failed when Mr Melon's eye rejected a donor cornea after three weeks during which his sight had returned.

Yesterday Mr Smerdon said: "I have been specialising for 12 years, and in the past three years I have performed 120 cornea grafts. In all that time, and during my training, I have never come across a situation where a patient's cornea is transplanted on to the other eye. The operation is described in text books, but only in theoretical terms."



Donor cornea section from patient's other eye replaces damaged section

20 stitches used to hold donor section in place

Mr Melon, from Billingham, Cleveland, has been blind in his left eye since the age of seven and lost the sight in his right eye four years ago. Surgeons said last night that the operation had been a technical success, but it would be several weeks before they could tell whether sight had been restored to his right eye.

Mr Smerdon said he was optimistic. "It is impossible for the patient to reject his own cornea. The real problem was that it could be damaged during the handling stage. I think the operation is his one and only chance of getting his sight back."

The attempt to restore Mr Melon's sight was intricate and complicated and lasted some three hours. A team of two anaesthetists, a theatre nurse, five other nurses and three student doctors were on hand to assist the surgeon.

The first stage was to remove a 9mm diameter section of the cornea of the left eye. It was then put into a tissue culture medium and the left eye protected with a temporary soft contact lens and a clear plastic shield. Then the medical equipment, instruments and clothes of the medical team were changed to prevent infection passing from the left eye to the right.

A 9mm section was removed from the right cornea and the similar section from the left eye taken from the tissue culture medium and stitched into place with 20 tiny nylon stitches. The operation was completed as a normal cornea transplant.

Again the transplant instruments and the clothing of the medical team were changed as they completed the operation by taking a 9mm section from a donor cornea supplied by the UK transplant centre into the left eye.

Although it was not done with the hope or intention of restoring sight to the left eye, surgeons are confident it will be an aesthetically successful transplant. Last night the surgeon said that Mr Melon could already distinguish light and darkness with his right eye, which was protected only by a clear plastic shield. But it will be some time before the doctors can tell to what extent sight has been restored.

Before the operation Mr Melon was totally blind and had to be led about. Doctors believe that if he regains what they term navigation vision the operation will have been a success and will add greatly to his quality of life.

Before the operation Mr Melon said he was looking forward to being able to see his wife, Kathleen, again. He said: "I'll go home and take a real good look at her. I haven't seen her for a while."

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The maligned culprit of horror tales joins list of protected species

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

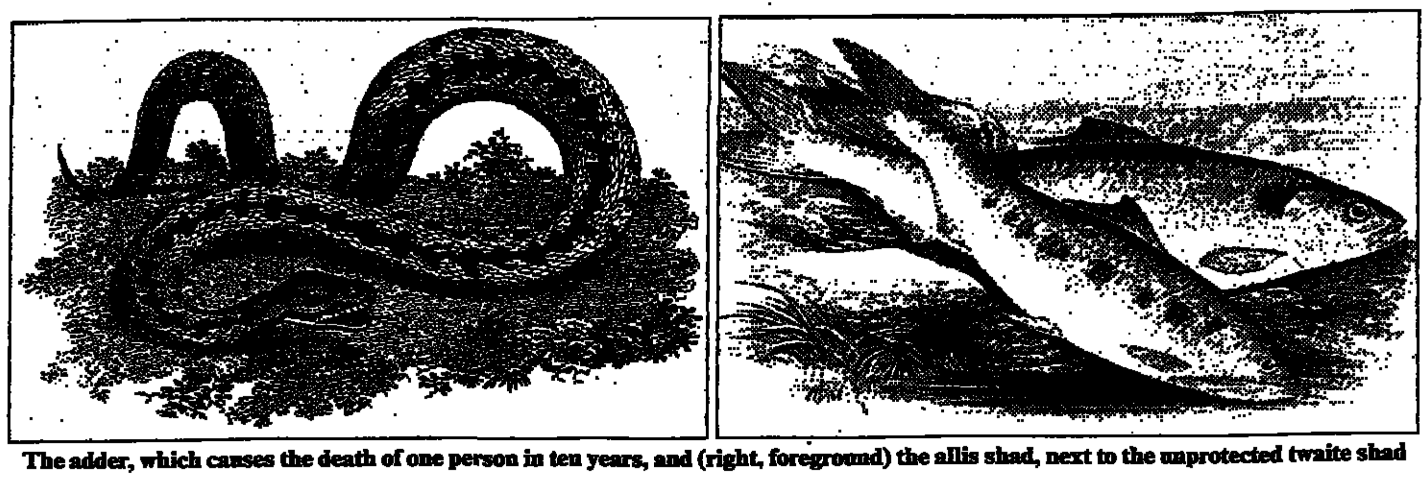
THE adder, whose fork put the bubble in the witches' cauldron in *Macbeth*, is to receive full legal protection under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act after a campaign to save it from extinction.

Britain's only venomous snake is one of three threatened species whose wilful death or injury will incur a fine of up to £2,000 for the perpetrator after an announcement yesterday by David Trippier, minister of state for the environment and countryside.

The much maligned snake, whose numbers have declined from six-figure abundance at the turn of the century to probably fewer than 20,000, is on the brink of extinction in many of its favourite sandy heathland habitats. In spite of its reputation for venomous attacks, the adder causes the death of only one person every ten years.

Tom Langton, a leading herpetologist, said: "This is the end of a very long campaign to clear the name of the adder which has been maligned since the Garden of Eden. You only have to go to church or read the Bible to know the snake is the symbol of evil. It is a paradox as 80 per cent of snakes worldwide are harmless. Adders are very shy and secretive creatures and only bite if you try to pick one up or accidentally sit on one. People are at much greater risk from bee and wasp stings and dog bites."

The adder, generally a foot long, whose habitat has been under increasing attack from agriculture and housing development, is to be found in decreasing numbers in southeast Scotland, the Yorkshire moors, the Borders, northeast Wales, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset and Hampshire, the north and south Downs and along the Essex and Suffolk coasts. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act the adder has so far been protected only from illegal selling but amendments that will shortly be laid before Parliament mean it will become the 116th species to receive full protection since the act came into force a decade ago.



The adder, which causes the death of one person in ten years, and (right, foreground) the allis shad, next to the unprotected twaite shad

It will be joined on the protected list by the allis shad and the freshwater pearl mussel. The mussels survive only in pollution-free, fast-flowing rivers, mostly in Scotland but also in small areas of Wales and the north and southwest of England. Their stocks have declined rapidly and they have been eliminated in some waters. An ancient Scottish law permits tinkers to fish for freshwater pearls, found in fewer than 1 per cent of the mussels, but they have been killing too many and also killing under-sized mussels. The new legislation will make it illegal to kill or injure the mussels and offenders are liable to a fine of up to £2,000 per specimen. Philip Boon, of the Nature Conservancy Council, said: "If the fishermen are careful they can open these mussels, check for pearls and remove them without actually killing the mussel. But the chances of them finding a pearl are remote."

Nevertheless the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury have crowns containing pearls from freshwater mussels.

The elusive allis shad, once described as "a plebeian fish excluded from all reputable banquets", used to abound in the Severn and the Wye, where it ascends in April and May to spawn.

The amendments to the act mean that decisions have been reached on all but one of the recommendations made by the NCC in its first five-yearly review of UK native species in 1986. The remaining species is the basking shark, which might have received legal protection but for the intervention of some Scottish fishing interests.

Leading article, page 11

Institute of British Geographers conference in Sheffield

Warming may make sea level fall, say scientists

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

GLOBAL warming will not have so great an effect on ocean levels as previous computer models have predicted, the annual conference of the Institute of British Geographers in Sheffield was told yesterday. Sea levels may even fall, rather than rise to swamp large areas of land.

Professor David Sugden and Dr Nick Hulton of the geography department at Edinburgh university reported on studies they have made of the East Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets. It is the behaviour of those huge volumes of ice under changing climatic conditions that would largely determine the levels of the oceans. If they melt, the oceans will rise; but if global warming increases and snow fall and ice sheets grow, then sea levels will fall.

Professor Sugden, working with Professor George Denton and David Marchant of the University of Maine, in the United States, studied the East Antarctic ice sheet, a volume of ice four kilometres thick and the area of the US. If all that ice melted, ocean levels would rise by 50-60 metres.

The team visited an area of exposed rock, known as the dry valleys, in the McMurdo area of the transantarctic mountains. Here areas of dry ground stick through the ice, and the perimeter of the ice has advanced and retreated through geological time as climates have changed. By measuring the position of the ice perimeter at different periods and comparing it with what is known about the climate then, it is possible to work out whether warming makes the ice get thicker or thinner.

The answer is that it gets thicker, Professor Sugden said. "The East Antarctic ice sheet is a relatively stable element in the Earth's environment," he said. "In any global warming it is likely to expand slightly and thus contribute to a slight lowering of the sea level."

Dr Hulton, a postgraduate student at Edinburgh, has studied the Greenland ice sheet using a computer model. That predicts how the sheet will grow or shrink in different climatic conditions, and successfully reproduces the actual behaviour of the ice sheet during the last glaciation, as shown by geological evidence from Greenland.

When predictions of global warming are fed into the model, it shows that it will shrink at the edges but grow in the centre, as a result of increased snow fall. The net effect will be a rise in the sea level of only a few millimetres over hundreds of years. Even if the warming were as much as 3C (37.4F), it would take 1,000-2,000 years for the southern dome of the ice sheet to disappear, and for the whole ice sheet to melt would need a warming of 6C (42.8F) over 10,000 years or so.

Professor Sugden was, however, cautious yesterday in interpreting the results. He said that global warming, if it happens, will make water in the oceans expand, which would lead to a rise in levels. "And we would have to look at all the ice sheets in the world, not just two, before we could be sure what the effects would be."

NEVILLE PYNE

Challenging global warming theories: Professor David Sugden (left) and Dr Nick Hulton

Index used to gauge extra payments to GPs 'unfair'

AN INDEX used by the health department to measure the degree of deprivation of an area and allocate extra payments to doctors produces results that are neither sensible nor fair, the conference was told (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Martyn Senior, of the geography department at Salford university, said that the underprivileged area index (UPA) designed for the department by Professor Brian Jarman, of St Mary's hospital medical school, and used to distribute £26 million a year of "deprivation payments", did not measure deprivation but the workload on general practitioners, an entirely different concept.

The index also produced abrupt and unrealistic divisions between GPs living next door to one another, Dr Senior said.

For instance, in Waltham Forest, east London, a GP in Hoe Stree electoral ward was entitled to a payment of £5.05 a patient because his area scored exactly 30 on the index scale. The GP next door in Cann Hall ward scored 29.91, falling below the threshold and receiving no deprivation payment. On an average GP's list of 2,000 patients, that would cost the unlucky GP £10,100 a year.

In the case of Wales, additional criteria were used, Dr Senior said, because otherwise the principality would qualify only for a very small number of payments. Measured by the Jarman index, it was not deprived.

The result of the system is to favour the South-East, East Anglia and the east Midlands, with such coastal resorts as Hastings, Folkestone and Hove qualifying for payments while "problem" estates on the edges of big cities did less well.

☐ The shift away from manufacturing into services as the main provider of jobs has accelerated sharply in the Thatcher years.

By 1987, there were only five district authorities left of the 459 in England and Wales in which manufacturing accounted for more than half the jobs, Alan Townsend, of the department of geography at Durham university, told the conference.

They were Pendle (Lancashire), Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria), Tewkesbury (Gloucestershire), Sedgefield (Co Durham) and Rossendale (Lancashire). "Services have almost replaced factories as the key to local economic development," Dr Townsend said.

In some areas, manufacturing appears close to extinction. In the South-East as a whole, only 17.8 per cent of the total value of economic activity in 1988 came from manufacturing.

Schemes to cut surplus 'are destined to fail'

ATTEMPTS by the European Community to reduce agricultural surpluses by setting aside land or reducing the intensity of production seem destined to fail, the institute was told.

A survey by John Tarrant and Dick Cobb, of the school of environmental sciences at East Anglia university, of the attitudes of farmers in the cereal-growing heartlands of Norfolk and Suffolk showed few if any willing to change their agricultural practices at any reasonable level of financial inducement.

At levels that the EC might be prepared to offer (£50 an acre for reducing production by 20 per cent) only 3 per cent of the 158 farmers questioned said they would be interested. The responses suggest that extensification is likely to prove no more popular than set-aside, which has fallen short of the commission's hopes to reduce output by 2.3 per cent. This year, only half of 1 per cent of Europe's land has been taken out of production, barely a fifth of what needs to be achieved.

The failure so far of set-aside had two causes, David Briggs, of Huddersfield polytechnic, told the conference. One was delays in introducing the schemes, the other was the attitude of farmers, who were reluctant to abandon land. "It goes against the culture of farming," Professor Tarrant said.

Effects on animals of pesticides mix to be investigated

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

STUDIES into the toxic effects of pesticide "cocktails" on animals is being planned by British scientists, it was disclosed yesterday.

The three-year project, which is expected to get environment department funding in the spring, will test evidence that animals exposed to mixtures of fungicides, insecticides and herbicides could be at greater risk than had previously been supposed.

News of the project comes in the wake of findings by the government's Drinking Water Inspectorate that greater concentrations of two common herbicides, both linked with cancer, are being found in drinking water. One sample, which is being rechecked, exceeds the government's own health guidance level and is 40 times greater than the European Community's official standards.

The study is being drafted by scientists at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE) and Reading university. Dr Derek Stevenson, an expert based at the Robens Institute for Industrial and Environmental Health and Safety, said yesterday: "These mixtures, where you do not exceed the limits, are one of the biggest areas of uncertainty in terms of both long-term and short-term health risks."

Preliminary research by the ITE/Reading team with red-legged partridges found that a mixture of pesticides can greatly increase the hazardous effects of a single chemical. The team is deciding which pesticides to study, but the research could include atrazine and simazine, the two herbicides used by councils and British Rail as general purpose weedkillers and which were found in drinking water samples.

The research is likely to be welcomed by both sides of the pesticide debate. In spite of the widespread use of pesticides in horticulture and agriculture, little is known about the long-term health hazards from exposure to low levels of pesticides, experts say.

Dr John Inman, a Leicestershire GP instrumental in the British Medical Association's report into pesticides published last October, said yesterday that, until research showed a pesticide to be safe, it should be banned.

However, some scientists are concerned that, in the absence of hard facts on the effects of pesticides, the case against their use is becoming increasingly hysterical and could place a heavy, and possibly unnecessary, burden on the water industry. The low EC limit on herbicides in drinking water is based not on evidence of deleterious health effects, but on the ability of technology to detect the presence of a pesticide.

Dr Stevenson believes the balance against pesticides may have swung too far. "If you look at life expectancy and infant mortality in the chemical age, you find we have improved these overall. I am not sure the pesticide industry is getting a fair deal at the moment. Ideally, we should not be exceeding limits. But occasional slight over-exposure is not necessarily going to harm anyone."

Farmers untroubled by chemical review

THE discovery of traces of herbicides in drinking water, which has been described by the environment department as worrying, is likely to be the least of the troubles facing farmers this year as they battle against falling prices and pressure for cuts in subsidies (Michael Hornsby writes).

The herbicide causing most concern, Atrazine, is mostly used to keep down underbrush and weeds on railway lines and motorways. It does not figure in the top 100 pesticides used by farmers. It used to control weeds in maize, but that crop is not common in Britain. Farmers said yesterday that even if its use were banned, the impact on agriculture would be negligible.

The agriculture ministry said yesterday that Atrazine was "undergoing an emergency review which should be completed by mid-spring". A ban would be considered only when all the data was available.

The government's drinking water inspectorate found Atrazine in concentrations 40 times higher than the one part per 10 billion standard laid down by the European Community. "The EC standard is open to a lot of questions, as being far too severe. Even at this concentration there is no suggestion that it poses a health threat," the ministry said.

Far more serious for farmers would be a ban on Isoproturon, a herbicide widely used to control black grass, a weed that affects winter-sown wheat. The chemical was found in much smaller concentrations than Atrazine. The agriculture ministry is reviewing the use of Isoproturon, but not on an emergency basis.

Use of chemicals by farmers has declined markedly over the past decade, falling from 33,000 tons by weight of active ingredient in 1983 to 24,000 tons last year, according to the British Agrochemicals Association.

EC 'must offer bigger concessions in Gatt talks'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community must be prepared to offer bigger concessions on cutting farm subsidies when the world trade talks resume in Geneva, David Curry, a parliamentary secretary at the agriculture department, told farmers yesterday.

Mr Curry, speaking at the annual Oxford Farming Conference, said that a successful outcome to the negotiations would also depend on "more realistic expectations" on the part of the United States. At a later press conference he accused the Americans of negotiating "with all the finesse of the Kray brothers".

Mr Curry said that the EC would have to accept that reducing export subsidies and increasing access to its own market for other countries' produce would be central elements in the trade negotiations when they resumed, possibly later this month. The talks between 107 signatory countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) broke down in Brussels last month, mainly because of the EC's refusal to accede to demands by the US and the Cairns group of 14 food-exporting nations for sharp cuts in farm subsidies.

The US and its allies wanted most forms of subsidy reduced by 75 per cent over the next ten years, with a cut of 90 per cent in the export subsidies used by the EC to dump its food surpluses on world markets. The Community was not prepared to offer more than a 30 per cent cut over ten years backdated to 1986, with no specific commitment to cut export subsidies. The Gatt talks were not the only pressure on the EC to reduce subsidies, Mr Curry said. Expenditure on agriculture in the Community was "a game beginning to run out of control", and this year could be at least £900 million over budget.

"The principal reasons why spending has proved so hard to control is that the Community still produces too much at an economic cost that is too great," Mr Curry said. Aggravating factors over the past year have been a weak dollar, falling world prices and the problems with the beef market.

The government accepted that there would have to be measures to soften the impact of cost-cutting programmes on farmers, but was worried that some of the ideas taking shape in Brussels would penalise larger British farmers and be tantamount to "deliberate sponsorship of inefficient agriculture". There was particular concern about the European Commission's proposal for direct income aids to farmers. "We would not favour paying farmers simply for being farmers," he said.

The government would also reject moves to exempt small farmers from the effects of subsidy cuts and shift the burden onto their larger colleagues. "Very few full-time British farmers are likely to meet the Community definition of a small farmer, and that could mean that the burden of support cuts will fall unfairly on the United Kingdom."

Mr Curry said that a stepped-up set-aside policy, where farmers are paid to take part of their animal land out of production, could be one solution, provided the land set-aside was put to an environmentally positive use.

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Virgin airline challenges BA on Tokyo route

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

RICHARD Branson, head of Virgin Atlantic Airways, yesterday threatened to withdraw his airline from the London-to-Tokyo air route unless it is allowed to operate a daily service in competition with British Airways.

Mr Branson told a Civil Aviation Authority tribunal that Virgin could no longer compete on the route if BA were allowed to increase its services to 15 a week while his airline were limited to four.

"A daily service is essential if we are to offer real competition to the customer," Mr Branson told the tribunal. "If British Airways increased their frequencies and we could not, the effects would be frightening, and it would be very very difficult to see how we could survive on that route."

The hearing may prove to be one of the CAA's most significant ones. If Mr Branson succeeds, it may lead to a flood of demands for curbs on British Airways.

The London-to-Tokyo route is one of the world's most profitable, with aircraft flying almost full and fares kept artificially high by the fierce protectionism of Japan.

Although the four airlines — two of them British — that fly the route would like to increase the number of flights, they are forbidden from doing so because of tight controls on landing and take-off "slots" at Narita airport, which claims that it is officially full.

In inter-governmental talks last year, however, it was agreed that the number of flights allowed for British airlines could be increased by four, from 17 to 21 a week, and Virgin Atlantic immediately bought additional aircraft and programmed extra services on the assumption that it would get at least two of these.

The Japanese, however, refused to increase landing slots, and the only way the British could gain from the additional frequencies was by BA juggling its own transit services. This squeezed out Virgin, which was still limited to four flights a week, and Mr Branson's airline has asked the CAA to force BA to change its services again and to give Virgin the slots freed.

British Airways is fiercely resisting the move, and claims that Virgin is prepared only to fly profitable routes while expecting BA to operate non-profitable services to keep the British flag flying.

The CAA must decide whether it has the power, and the gall, to tell British Airways to hand slots at a foreign airport to Virgin in the name of competition. If it refuses to act, it is implicitly admitting that BA is the dominant British airline whose main competition will always be foreign airlines. If it acts, the door is open for other airlines to bring such challenges to BA and will give official credence to the idea that a landing slot is a tradeable commodity.

The belief is growing that a compromise will allow Virgin two extra services a week.

Court ruling presumes couple dead

THE Royal Court of Jersey found yesterday that a wealthy couple who disappeared in October 1987 must be presumed dead after hearing evidence of "an episode of *sustained violence" in their home* (Robin Young writes).

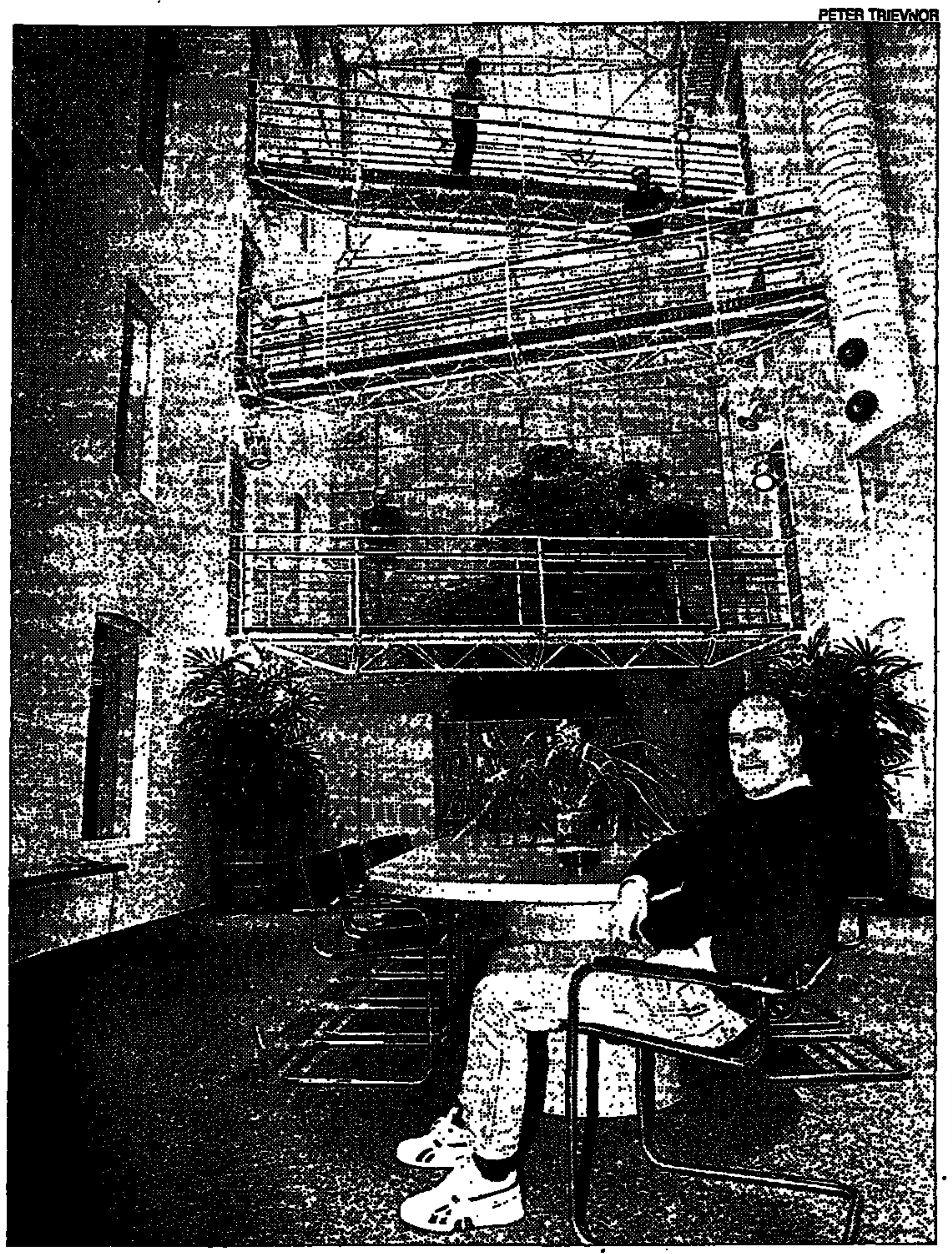
David Northcott, a Home Office forensic scientist, said he had concluded that Nicholas Newall was probably killed in the lounge and his wife Elizabeth in the master bedroom. The property had been so thoroughly cleaned that no bloodstains were at first apparent when police started searching for them on October 18, 1987.

The court's decision opens the way for the executors to apply for grant of probate. Assets include a the family yacht, in which, it is *understood, their elder son*, Roderick, is sailing in the South Atlantic. The younger son, Mark, aged 24, was in court yesterday.

Top awards for 'world class' buildings

By Charles Knevitt
Architecture Correspondent

PETER TRIEVNOR



The architect Ron Herron in the restored and converted Imagination headquarters building

THREE buildings receive national awards for architecture from the Royal Institute of British Architects today, compared with 16 last year — a sign of rising standards rather than the deepening recession in the construction industry, according to Max Hutchinson, the institute's president.

Two company headquarters, one for the Imagination concern and one for Ready Mixed Concrete, and a local authority school in Hampshire are all "world-class buildings", Mr Hutchinson said. "If only more speculative developments matched their standard."

One will be nominated as the president's choice of building of the year when the awards are presented on January 17. The international headquarters of Ready Mixed Concrete at Egham, Surrey, by Edward Cullinan Architects, in being strongly tipped.

The Cullinan design linked and extended three Victorian and Georgian buildings on a partial green belt site by planting the roof of the new single-storey extension so that it is almost invisible from above. Where it does intrude, for example as air vents, they are disguised as outsize chess pieces.

Follies, pavilions and gazebos are surrounded by hedged gardens, and two squash courts and a swimming pool have been positioned for easy access outside normal office hours. The building won the top Civic Trust award for 1990.

Queens Inclosure Middle School, at Cowplain, Hampshire, is the work of Colin Stansfield Smith, *the county architect*, and his department. He was named two months ago as the 1991 Royal Gold Medallist for Architecture.

The school, described by the assessors as "a clear social and cultural statement", is also in a rural setting on the edge of a large meadow beside 95 acres of mature pine and oak trees.

Sunlight is brought into the centre of the silver-painted steel structure through a small transparent vault covering classrooms, and its open plan is *partially segregated by white partitions* and fittings. The bright red furniture was chosen jointly by the head teacher and the job architect.

The building for the Imagination design and promotion company has won previous awards *for its architect, Ron Herron of* Herron Associates. "Would that we could all work in an office like this," the assessors said. The rundown Edwardian building, just off Tottenham Court Road in central London, was given a dramatic face-lift to upgrade of*fice accommodation* and *provide* a new image. A lightweight tensile roof hung between two buildings creates a large covered courtyard, also traversed by pedestrian bridges.

The assessors said the conservationist and interventionist aspects of the architect's approach demonstrated "a brilliant assurance".

Mother and daughter die in tower block fire

Two women died after fire broke out at their seventh-floor tower block flat in Motherwell, Strathclyde, yesterday. They were Georgina Lang, aged 64, and her daughter Lily, aged 40.

Stanley Struthers, a neighbour, who raised the alarm, said that the cupboard containing the fire hose reel had been locked. "We have no keys to get access to the water hoses because of vandalism. I could maybe have done something if I could have got to a hose."

However, a fire station spokesman said: "Given the circumstances, no one would have been able to fight it except firemen wearing breathing apparatus." The cause is being investigated.

Meningitis alert

West Midlands regional health authority has alerted parents after a man aged 20 died from meningitis in Birmingham on December 30.

CS gas charge

Bertrand Gachot, aged 27, a French racing driver, was remanded on bail yesterday by Horseferry Road magistrates charged with possessing CS tear gas and assaulting a taxi driver.

Sword in stone

John Dawson, aged 42, a builder, found a 1,300-year-old Saxon sword embedded in stone in an old fireplace at a 17th-century cottage in Barton-upon-Humber, Humberside.

Water order ends

Bristol Water yesterday lifted a drought order, allowing water to be used for industrial purposes, but retained a hosepipe ban.

Chemical spray

A man is in hospital after being sprayed with a toxic chemical at the Rhone-Poulenc ISC chemical works at Avonmouth on Wednesday. Joe Hubbard, aged 50, of Nailsea, Avon, is "comfortable".

£250,000 winner

The £250,000 National Savings premium bonds prize for January has been won by the holder of bond number 20XT 351516, of Essex.

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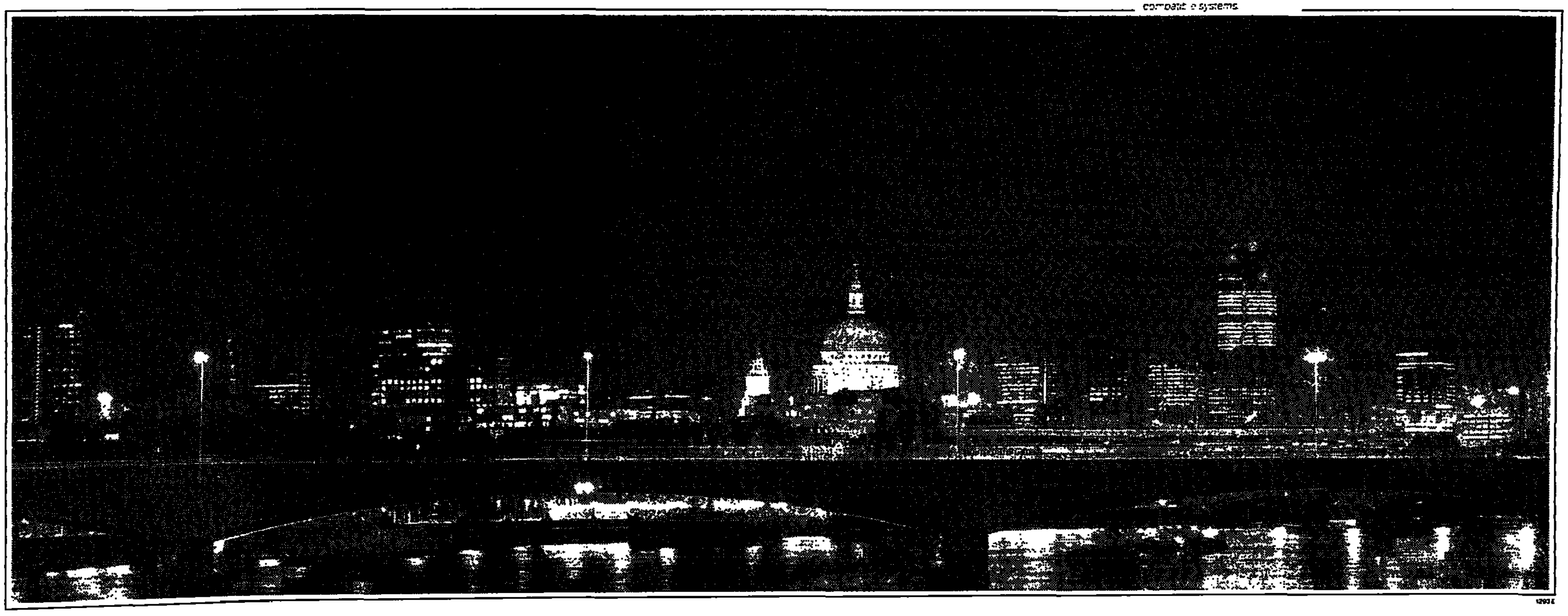

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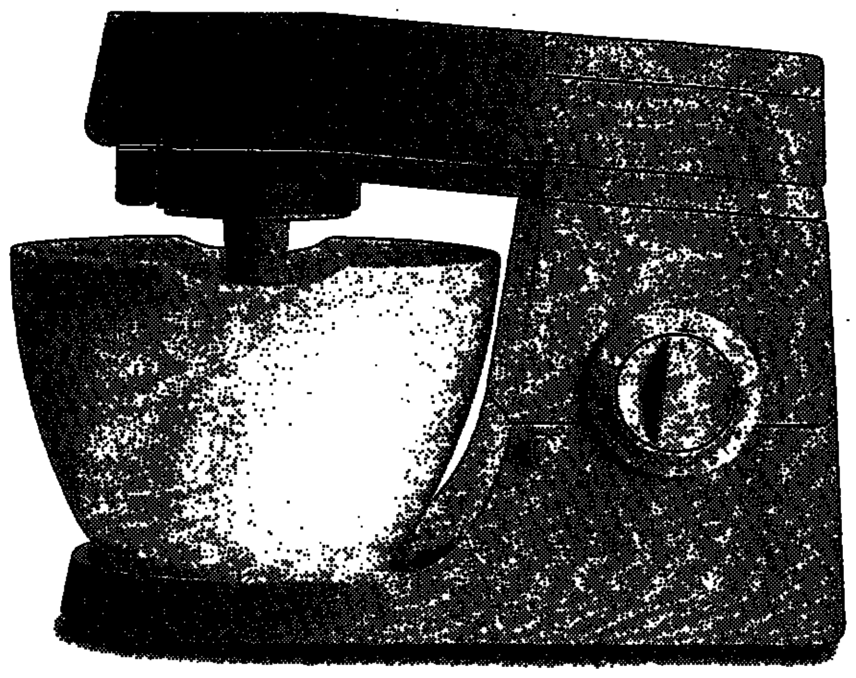

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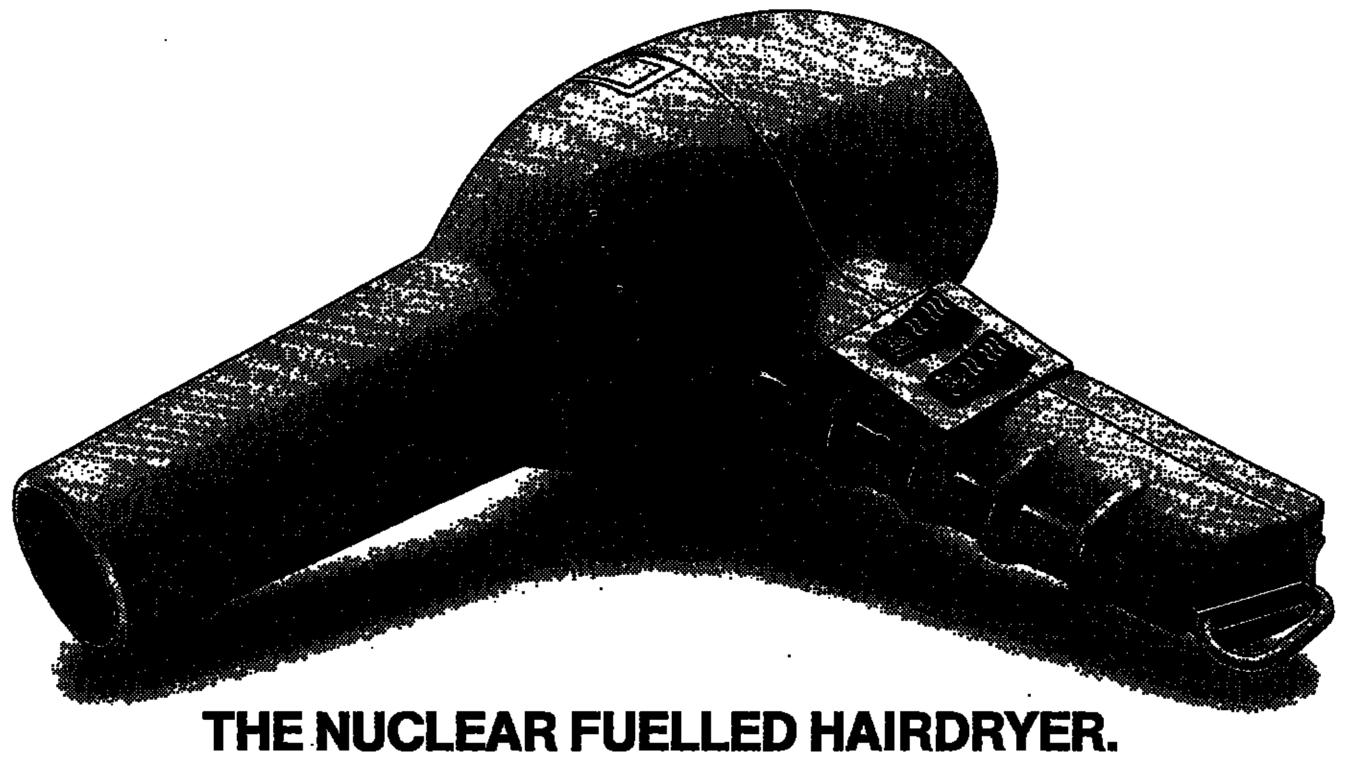
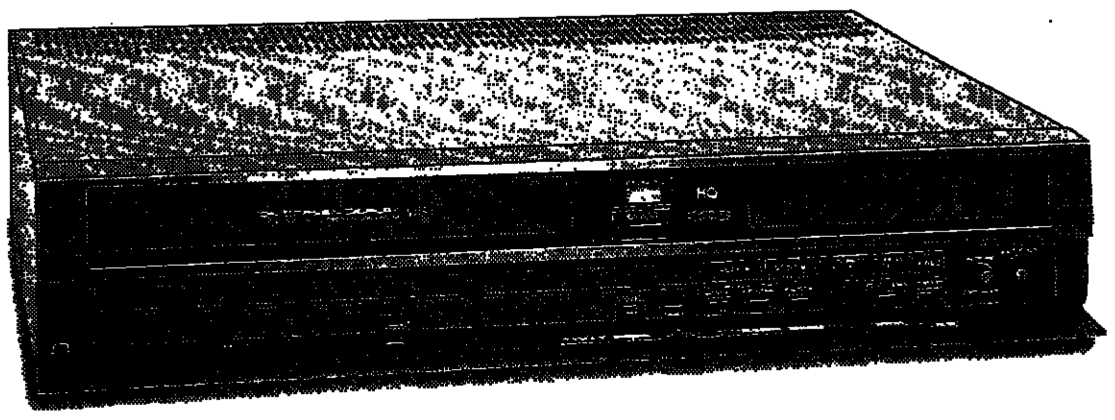
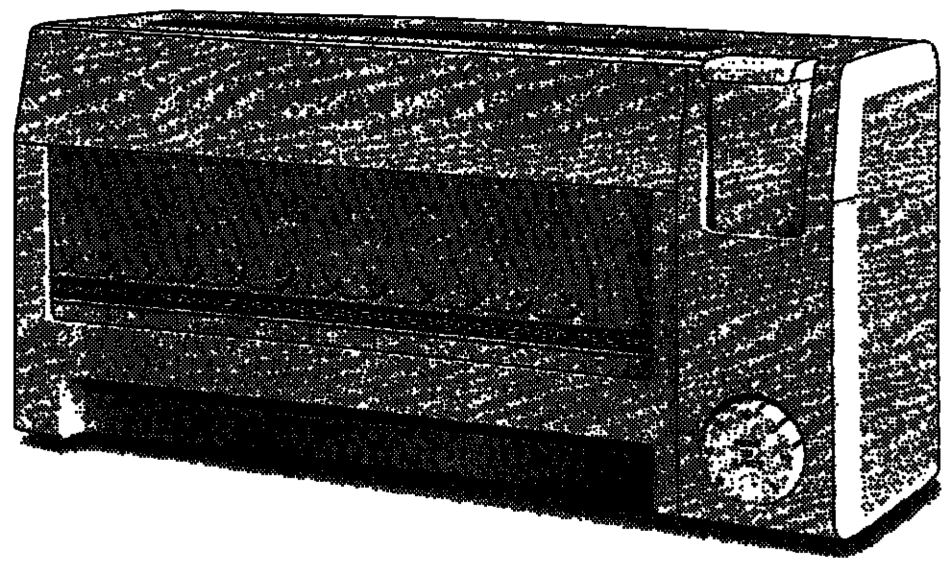


THE NUCLEAR FUELLED HAIRDRYER.



THE GAS POWERED VIDEO.



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Greece tries to stem flow of Albanian refugees

From A CORRESPONDENT IN IOANNINA, GREECE

ANOTHER 500 shivering Albanian refugees crossed the snow-covered border in to Greece yesterday after walking for up to 15 hours, defying border guards and leaving behind families and homes.

Authorities in the northern town of Ioannina said that more than 4,000 refugees, most of them ethnic Greeks, crossed the border from the hardline communist state this week. More than 6,000 have arrived since the exodus began early last month.

The alternate interior minister, Nikos Klitos, and the head of the Greek armed forces, General Ioannis Verivakis, who arrived in Ioannina to organise the government's efforts, said 2,000 refugees had been housed in schools, churches and state buildings in northern Greece, and another 1,000 accommodated in tents at an army camp. Some of them were sent to Athens and other cities.

All hospitals in the area have been put on alert, particularly for babies suffering from pneumonia. There are fears of an epidemic from the bad living conditions, as the refugees are crammed in small rooms and some choose to sleep outdoors to escape the smell of urine. They have no bathing facilities, and food could become scarce.

Banks have opened special accounts for refugee relief, the Greek Red Cross is sending doctors, tents and medical supplies to the border, and the government has asked the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to assess the fleeing Albanians' needs.

In Athens, the foreign minister, Antonis Samaras, reiterated the conservative government's position that the 350,000-strong Greek community in southern Albania should stay put, and await the fruits of democratisation recently announced by President Alia. Mr Samaras accused Albania of encouraging the exodus by spreading rumours that Greece would give the refugees land, television sets, cars and other goods. A Greek government spokesman said that it was a deliberate plan so that the ethnic Greeks would play no role in the multiparty elections next month.

Mr Samaras said that the prime minister, Constantine Mitsotakis, would discuss the refugee issue with President Alia during a two-day visit to Tirana, focussing on guarantees of safety and non-prosecution for those who wished to return. But few of the incoming refugees are prepared to go back, and gave dramatic accounts of their escape.

"My 27-year-old son and three others were caught on December 13, when they tried to escape," Vassilis Mathios, aged 56, who fled to Greece on Christmas Eve, said. "They were hanged on the electrified barbed wire across the border, and then killed with bayonets." Whatever the situation here, it is still paradise compared to the hell of Albania."

Another refugee, Vassilis Karkatelos, aged 28, had his left foot amputated in a Greek hospital after being shot by Albanian border guards. He said: "Albania is a country in ruins, a country of prisoners which is ready to explode."

Leonidas Xathos, aged 45, left his two children and wife behind in the hope of a better life after spending eight years in jail for "inciting discord". He said: "I could not take the beatings, the hunger and the constant fear anymore."

Corsican holiday homes bombed

Ajaccio — Corsican separatist guerrillas blew up dozens of holiday homes yesterday in what they called an attack on property speculators on the French Mediterranean island.

The bombings, the worst in two years, came only hours before President Mitterrand was due to meet his inner cabinet to discuss a surge of violence on the island. A splinter group of the separatist National Front for the Liberation of Corsica claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Thirty holiday homes were destroyed in Anghone and 11 in Porto-Vecchio. A three-floor block of flats under construction collapsed in a big blast in Sagone, and a bomb destroyed a bar and damaged a restaurant and a bookshop in Ajaccio. There were no reports of casualties. *(Reuter)*

Mugabe plea

Harare — President Mugabe of Zimbabwe has said he hopes Britain will continue to help his government acquire land from large-scale white commercial farmers. He told *The Herald* newspaper that his government did not have enough resources to acquire the land needed to resettle thousands of landless communal farmers. Commercial farmers own about 30 per cent of Zimbabwe's land. *(AFP)*

Squatters moved

Berlin — Police cleared three illegally occupied houses in an east Berlin area where a similar raid sparked protracted riots last November. A police spokesman said there were no incidents when 200 officers moved in on the working class district of Friedrichshain and evicted the squatters. *(Reuter)*

New presidency

Singapore — The parliament of Singapore voted to change the way that the country is governed by replacing the ceremonial post of president with an elected office. The vote was 75-1 in favour of a bill to amend the constitution. Chaim See Tong, an opposition MP, cast the only vote against. *(AP)*

Cocaine killings

Bogotá — Colombian cocaine barons murdered four police secret agents in Medellín, police said, in what may signal the resumption of the drug traffickers' war against the government. The campaign of bombings and assassinations all but ended last July after 16 months and one drug baron has surrendered. *(AP)*

Hounded out

Vienna — Austrian postmen, fed up with ripped trousers and injured legs from encounters with fierce dogs, will no longer deliver mail to owners who fail to restrain their pets, a post office official said. More than 230 attacks were reported in 1989. Figures for 1990 were expected to be as high. *(Reuter)*

Colour party: Soviet Jews, who plan to emigrate to Israel, celebrating the opening of the Israeli consulate in Moscow yesterday, and Arieh Levin, the consul general, running up the Israeli flag. He is the Jewish state's first diplomat to be based in Moscow since 1967, when the Soviet Union broke off relations after the six-day war

Israel sends first envoy to Moscow in 23 years

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE blue and white Israeli flag was raised in Moscow yesterday to mark the official opening of an Israeli consulate after a break of 23 years. This is the first time that Israel has had a formal diplomatic presence in the Soviet Union since the Kremlin broke off relations in 1967. Israeli affairs had been looked after by the Dutch embassy.

After a short ceremony addressed in Russian and Hebrew by Arieh Levin, the consul general, there was singing and dancing in the flower-strewn courtyard. A small crowd, mostly of visa applicants, watched from the gate, but there were no protests.

Although the mood was optimistic, there are still unresolved problems. The Israeli airline, El Al, is due to begin regular direct flights to Moscow this month but, according to Mr Levin, they will be used only by business travellers and tourists. Moscow will not allow Jewish emigrants to travel on them unless the Israeli government gives a formal undertaking not to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

Mr Levin said he saw no need for such a statement. The Israeli government, he said, had already sent the Soviet government a note on the subject in the autumn.

The delay in commencing direct flights, which were agreed on in principle at a meeting between the Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers in September, is believed to reflect pressure from Arab states concerned about the scale of Soviet emigration to Israel. More than 200,000 emigrated last year, and this year the number is expected to double.

A second problem in Israeli-Soviet relations concerns Soviet Jews refused permission to emigrate. Mr Levin said several "refuseniks" were still prevented from leaving because of their alleged past access to state secrets.

Jewish groups hope the planned new Soviet entry and exit law will restrict to five years the time anyone can be prevented from leaving on security grounds, but this is known to be a point of contention between Soviet legislators and the military and KGB authorities.

At a press conference, Mr Levin made it clear that the opening of the consulate was a diplomatic compromise that would allow business to be conducted without the resumption of full diplomatic relations.

He said: "We could have had full diplomatic relations, but I understand that the Soviet government is reluctant and has a little difficulty. We have no difficulty. We are preparing for full diplomatic relations. The Soviet side broke relations in 1967 for reasons which seem strange and not totally acceptable, but all that is in the past." He declined to predict when full relations might be resumed.

● **JERUSALEM:** Israeli officials warmly welcomed the consulate opening, and said Soviet demands for a guarantee that Soviet immigrants would not be settled in the occupied territories "should present no difficulties" (Richard Owen writes). "We have given the Russians such assurances already," said Yossi Olmert, head of the government press office.

"The Arab side may still complain, but at the end of the day the Russians know perfectly well what our policy is, namely that we do not send immigrants to the territories."

In fact, fewer than 1 per cent of Soviet Jewish immigrants have settled in the territories, not least because of the hardships involved. But there are fears that pressures such as the shortage of jobs and housing in Israel proper will force more Soviet Jews to find accommodation in the West Bank. Many new arrivals have settled in east Jerusalem, annexed by Israel but regarded internationally as occupied land.

Deputy's son killed in Vilnius

Moscow — The son of Romualdas Ozolas, the deputy prime minister of Lithuania, has died of injuries suffered in a New Year's day fight with people who had been drinking, Elta, the Lithuanian news agency, reported yesterday. Two people had been arrested, police said.

Marijonas Misiukonis, the Lithuanian interior minister, said the body of Djugas Ozolas, aged 20, had been found in an orchard near Vilnius on New Year's day.

Police said the fight had no political motive or connections to Mr Ozolas's father. "(The assailants) did not know his name or nationality. They came across him accidentally." *(AP)*

● **BERLIN:** Oleg Gordievsky, a KGB officer who spied for Britain before escaping to the West in 1985, said the Kremlin still had about 700 spies in Germany.

He told the *Berliner Zeitung* that the main centres for Soviet agents were in Bonn, Cologne, Munich, Hamburg and both halves of the once-divided Berlin. *(Reuter)*

Janet Daley, page 10

Hungary bids for Berlin arsenal

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BUDAPEST

HUNGARY, attempting to meet its defence needs independently of Moscow for the first time in decades, wants to buy much of the arsenal of former East Germany, according to defence ministry officials.

German officials acknowledged on Wednesday that Hungary had expressed interest in the weaponry, but said no decision had been made. They said Czechoslovakia and Poland also have expressed interest in purchasing some of the armaments.

The interest in the weapons comes as some leading Hungarian military figures voice concern about tensions with neighbouring countries freed from the discipline of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. The former East German army was the best-equipped of the Kremlin's military allies, partly because it was considered the most loyal. Other pact allies had to make do with outdated weaponry.

Gyorgy Keleti, the defence ministry spokesman, said Budapest asked Bonn for the weapons in September, one month before the two Germanies were united. He was optimistic that Hungary will be able to buy the arms. Mr Keleti said the Hungarians wanted 360 T72 tanks, 350 infantry fighting vehicles, more than 1,000 lorries, 72 122mm artillery pieces, 50,000 AK47 rifles, 50 million rounds of ammunition, 100,000 anti-tank guided missiles and 200,000 grenades.

Officials in Bonn gave no details on the Hungarian offer. They suggested that selling the weaponry was so sensitive that parliament may have to decide which, if any, of the countries would get them. They said without elaboration that Czechoslovakia and Poland also sought to purchase some of the weapons.

Mr Keleti did not say how much Hungary was prepared to pay. He said last week that he believed Hungary would be able to buy the weapons cheaply, banking on "German appreciation for Hungary's role in making reunification possible". In 1989, Hungary opened its border to the west for East Germans fleeing their country. The decision contributed to the end of communist rule in East Germany and led to German unification.

Prague reforms opposed

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PRAGUE

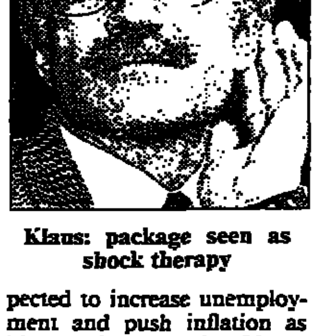
REFORMS designed to redraw Czechoslovakia's economy along capitalist lines were criticised by a key opposition party yesterday.

The Christian Democrats, the country's third-largest party and particularly strong in the Slovak republic, sharply attacked changes which began on January 1, in their party daily *Lidove Demokracie*.

"The main shortcoming of the reform is (the assumption) that large-scale price liberalisation and a rapid opening to the world's economies will get us soon into a functioning market system," the paper said.

The reforms, based on sweeping privatisation, price decontrol and budget austerity, were penned by Vaclav Klaus, finance minister, and have been sanctioned by the International Monetary Fund.

But Mr Klaus's package, often compared with the "shock therapy" implemented by Leszek Balcerowicz, Poland's finance minister, is worrying many Czechoslovaks who are used to fixed prices and job security under the old communist system. The Prague package is expected to increase unemployment and push inflation as high as 50 per cent in 1991.



Klaus: package seen as shock therapy

Mr Klaus devalued the national currency three times last year to help increase exports, while price decontrol is aimed at making Czechoslovakia's market more compatible with the West.

Lidove Demokracie said that devaluation and price liberalisation could force between 60 and 70 per cent of Czechoslovak industry into bankruptcy or into the arms of foreign capital.

A report by a Christian Democrat commission of economic experts also criticised the government for delays in privatisation and legislative bottlenecks that are hindering foreign investors.

Mr Klaus's reforms, drafted before the Civic Forum and its Slovak sister organisation, Public Against Violence, won elections in June, have been delayed by lengthy parliamentary debate and disputes between federal authorities and the Czech and Slovak republics.

Lidove Demokracie said the Christian Democratic party would prepare a comprehensive plan for economic reform and present it to voters.

Fears of Vesuvius eruption

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

VESUVIUS, Europe's most famous volcano which dominates the Bay of Naples, is not dormant and could erupt again, threatening the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The warning has been issued by the Italian civil defence ministry and the Vesuvian observatory, which has been monitoring the vulcano for the past 150 years. "Sooner or later there will be an eruption," said Professor Giuseppe Luongo, of the observatory. "Vesuvius is not completely dormant, it is dozing. Our instruments indicate that there is constant underground activity."

According to the civil defence authorities, who are calling for the immediate creation of a contingency plan, a serious eruption could demand the evacuation of up to 500,000 people in the built-up areas around Vesuvius and indirectly affect another three million. One idea is to take people off the mainland in ferries when the first signs of an eruption are felt.

Vesuvius's most famous eruption caused the destruction of Pompeii in 79AD. It last erupted in 1944, severely damaging nearby villages and the countryside. Since then, tens of thousands of houses have been built, the majority of them without planning permission, close to the volcano, as if no danger existed.

Professor Luongo said: "This lack of awareness is demonstrated by the fact that blocks of flats are still being built on the slopes of Vesuvius, only a few hundred metres from the crater. We must not create needless panic, but we must learn to live with an active volcano, one of those with the highest eruption risks in the world ... we are living under a Damocles' sword."

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Elite units reinforce Israel's borders as UN deadline nears

Israeli officials anticipate disruption of their borders from Jordan to Lebanon in the event of hostilities in the Gulf, **Richard Owen** reports from Marjayoun

ISRAEL is bracing itself not only for possible war with Baghdad but also for destabilisation on its borders as the January 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait nears. Officials anticipate disruption from Lebanon to Jordan in the event of a Middle East conflagration.

In southern Lebanon, Israeli officials said they were prepared for stepped-up attacks on Israel's northern border by Palestinian and Muslim Shia groups, with Syria taking advantage of the chaos to extend its hold on Lebanon and weaken Israeli control in southern Lebanon. Officials are also concerned about developments in Jordan, where the inclusion of five members of the Muslim Brotherhood in the reshuffled cabinet has coincided with Jordanian tank and troop movements on the Israeli frontier. Yesterday, there were reports that Israeli troops in the Jordan valley had been reinforced by elite units and air defences. "If war breaks out, Israel must be alert on all borders," one official said.

At Marjayoun, General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), the predominantly Christian Arab force backed by Israel, said that if the Gulf confrontation ended in a "military solution" and the United States won the war, as seemed likely, this would lead to greater pressure on Israel and its allies as Washington and its Arab partners tried to reach a postwar settlement.

"If the Middle East map can be redrawn in the Gulf, an area rich in oil, it can be even more easily redrawn in areas which have less power and significance for the West," General Lahd said. Officials said they feared that a Middle East peace conference could involve both the Palestinian question and an attempt to unify Lebanon under Syrian hegemony.

General Lahd, whose 2,700 troops patrol the rock-strewn hillsides of southern Lebanon with the help of the Israeli army, said there had been a recent marked increase in attempts by Arab gunmen to infiltrate the "security zone", the 350-square-mile buffer zone set up by Israel and the SLA in 1985 to prevent attacks on Israel's northern border. He insisted, however, that the SLA, which is equipped, trained and financed by Israel, could cope.

Eight Israeli soldiers have died in the security zone in the past two months. Disbanded Muslim militias have moved south from Beirut to harass Israel and SLA forces since the Syrian-backed Lebanese government of President Hrawi drove General Michel Aoun, the Christian leader, out of east Beirut in October and formulated a pacification plan. Israeli army officers, accompanying reporters on a tour of defences near the ruined crusader castle of Beaufort, said Israel would only withdraw from southern Lebanon if there were "a strong central Lebanese government in which Israel can believe and which provides real border security".

General Lahd, aged 61, said he saw no comparison between Israel's presence in southern Lebanon and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He insisted that Syria would never succeed in including southern Lebanon in its "zone of hegemony" even if it emerged as one of the victors in a war with Iraq. He said General Aoun had been backed only by France, which was weak militarily, and by the Pope, who had no troops, "whereas I have Israel".

The Israeli *Hadashot* newspaper, commenting on tensions with Jordan, said that King Husain was playing with fire by staging shows of military strength

● **JERUSALEM:** The first United Nations envoy to visit Israel and the occupied territories since 17 Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli security forces here last October, yesterday held "a frank exchange of views" with David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, before having his afternoon schedule interrupted by fresh disturbances in the Gaza Strip (Paul Adams writes).

Guido de Marco, president of the United Nations General Assembly, said that although there was no linkage between the Gulf conflict and the Palestinian problem, "I don't want to be inhibited by the Gulf crisis from looking into matters which happen to refer to Palestinian refugees".

The Israeli government is reportedly upset over the timing of his visit, coming in the wake of the UN Security Council's condemnation of the killings outside the Temple Mount mosque.

But officials here said the visit had nothing to do with security council initiatives.

Washington's suspicions about Europe surface again

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE timing of yesterday's White House offer of talks with Iraq was no accident.

On the day Congress reconvened, it was designed not just to head off Capitol Hill's demands that President Bush should go the extra mile to avert war, but also to pre-empt what one official called "an explosion of freelance peace initiatives" before January 15. The administration will not say so publicly, but it would include the proposed European Community initiatives in that category.

Ostensibly, the administration welcomes all diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful solution. Privately it fears that talks conducted by anyone other than itself will lead to unacceptable compromises with Iraq, and that goes for most European as well as Arab nations.

The French, whose President Mitterrand, has openly mused about possible settlements and this week sent a senior aid to Baghdad, are the most suspect of all. Mr Bush telephoned M Mitterrand and discussed that trip.

American concern about the possible EC initiative was underscored on Wednesday when Robert Kimmitt, under secretary for political affairs at the State Department, summoned the ambassadors of Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands — the past, present and future EC presidents — to emphasise that there must be no divergence from the terms of the 12 UN resolutions.

"It all depends how it turns out," one official said this week of the European initiative. "If people are trying to settle things with partial solutions, then it is going to be a problem."

The American position reflects deep ambivalence towards Europe. On the one hand, the government wants a strong Europe, capable of sharing the burden of world leadership; but simultaneously it recoils from any challenge to its own supremacy and freedom of action.

Congressional leaders, supported by countless opinion polls, have incessantly decried the relatively paltry economic and military contributions of Germany and other oil-dependent European nations (though few were consulted about the initial dispatch of American troops). A *USA Today* poll yesterday indicated that 79 per cent of Americans believe that their troops should not fight in the Gulf unless "substantial" numbers of allied troops fight alongside them.

At the same time, Americans have taken an unmistakable pride in the fact that their superpower status has been reaffirmed.

"This crisis really exposed the hollowness of European pretensions," Bernard Lewis, a Princeton University historian, told *The Washington Post* soon after the confrontation began. "Here was a major crisis that affected Europe far more than the US, since the Europeans are far more dependent on Persian Gulf oil. But nevertheless the great new European colossus that we have been hearing about has either been passive for responding to the American initiative and not launching anything of its own."

The Wall Street Journal said that "all the talk about Japan or Germany being the new number one has faded quickly. The Iraq crisis shows that the US is the only true superpower." *The New York Times* said that "the obituaries [for America] were … premature".

The administration expects that a more united, cohesive Europe will emerge in the wake of the Gulf confrontation, and there are moves to develop common EC defence and security structures, but in the meantime America's fading "special relationship" with Britain has been given an extra lease of life.

In its readiness to use force and its implacable opposition to partial solutions, Britain has again proved to be Washington's most dependable ally.

Leading article, page 11
Letters, page 11

Fitzwater: reading the president's statement

Bush offers 'to go the extra mile'

Washington — This is part of President Bush's statement offering to hold talks with Iraq, read yesterday by Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman:

More than a month ago, on November 30, I proposed that Iraqi foreign minister (Tariq) Aziz travel to Washington to meet with me late in the week of December 10, to be followed … by a trip to Baghdad by Secretary of State James Baker. I did so "to go the extra mile for peace" …

While I offered 15 days during which Secretary Baker was prepared to travel to Baghdad, including Christmas, Saddam Hussein showed himself to be more interested in manipulating my offer to his advantage than in a serious response. He was not too busy to see on short notice a wide range of individuals … but he was too busy to find even a few hours to meet with the Secretary of State of the United States …

Secretary Baker is departing on January 6 for several days of close consultations with coalition partners.. While I am not prepared to repeat my previous offer, rejected by Saddam Hussein, I am ready to make one last attempt to go the extra mile for peace. I have therefore offered … to have Secretary Baker meet with Iraqi foreign minister Aziz in Switzerland during the period January 7-9 … This offer is being made subject to the same conditions as my previous attempt: no negotiations, no compromises, no attempts at face-saving and no rewards for aggression. What there will be if Iraq accepts this offer is, simply and importantly, an opportunity to resolve this crisis peacefully. *(Reuter)*

Doctor at sea: Surgeon Lieutenant Kathy Blaydes, the Royal Navy's first woman doctor to serve on board ship, who set sail for the Gulf yesterday. Lieutenant Blaydes, aged 28, is among the 125-strong crew of the Devonport-based survey ship HMS Hecla. Lieutenant Blaydes, who has been in the Royal Navy for three years and has served on the Hecla for only two months, said she was nervous but happy to be going. "It's my first sea-going appointment, but it's exciting to be part of a ship and such a good team," she said. Changes have been made to HMS Hecla to prepare it for possible action in the Gulf, including the fitting of a Lynx helicopter landing pad. Miss Blaydes's fiancé is a Portland-based Lynx pilot. There is also a "sanctuary" — which is a small sealed unit designed for use in the event of chemical warfare. The ship's captain, Commander Hugh May, says that the vessel is ready for anything. "I am apprehensive to a certain degree, but I have the greatest confidence in the ship's company," he said. The Hecla is replacing HMS Herald as the command and support centre for the five Royal Navy minesweepers which are already stationed in the Gulf.

EC adamant on Iraqi pull-out

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers, holding a crucial meeting in Luxembourg this afternoon, will insist that Iraq withdraws from Kuwait as a precondition to Gulf conflict talks.

"There will be no negotiations. There will be a contact with a message," Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister, said yesterday.

"Iraq must leave Kuwait, totally and unconditionally, before the (January 15) date set out in the United Nations resolution and full sovereignty must be restored to Kuwait," said Mr Poos, who may be given a mandate to open talks with Iraq after today's meeting. "Only after this is achieved will we look at how to handle the post-crisis situation."

President Bush's announcement that James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was ready to meet Tariq Aziz, his Iraqi counterpart, in Switzerland, makes it easier for the EC to reaffirm its solidarity with Washington.

Iraq, however, issued a warning yesterday that Baghdad was not ready to receive an EC envoy unless he was ready to negotiate. Zaid Haidar, the Iraqi ambassador to the EC, urged the foreign ministers to launch a separate peace initiative, and said that an EC mission to Baghdad could be arranged as soon as possible.

Such a mission, headed by Mr Poos, would be received by President Saddam Hussein. Mr Haidar said. But he criticised Mr Poos for saying that he would not negotiate with Baghdad. He urged the EC instead to put pressure on America to achieve an overall Middle East settlement, and implement UN resolutions on Palestine. Iraq would not be satisfied with promises to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict after a withdrawal from Kuwait because there was no guarrantee that such a promise would be honoured.

Today's meeting comes as public opinion is hardening in some EC countries against force in the Gulf. An opinion poll in Belgium yesterday showed that only 36 per cent of Belgians favoured the use of force against Iraq, compared with 60 per cent in September. About 54 per cent oppose a military solution. The poll also found that 87 per cent of those asked said the West should continue to negotiate to avert war.

The Belgian cabinet has already let it be known that it wanted to have nothing to do with preparations for war. Wilfried Martens, the prime minister, said on Wednesday that Brussels had turned down a request from Britain for the purchase of Belgian ammunition.

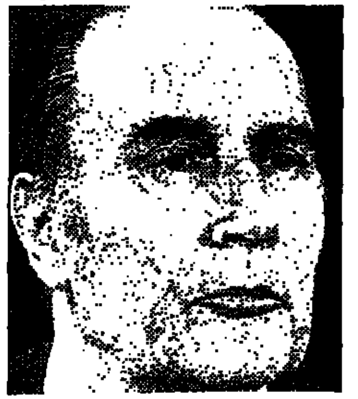
Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, is also pressing for greater efforts to avert war as German public opinion voices increasing concern at the lack of direct talks between Washington and Baghdad.

Doubts persist on French solidarity

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND ANNE McELVOY IN BONN

PRESIDENT Mitterrand declared before Christmas that France was prepared for war if Iraq failed to withdraw from Kuwait. Warning President Saddam Hussein that he risked "provoking the irreparable". M Mitterrand emphasised that Paris sought peace, but would not flinch from the consequences of "the application and triumph of legitimacy".

The fighting talk was supported by the dispatch of extra French forces to the Saudi desert, including unmistakably offensive units such as heavy battle tanks and more attack helicopters. M Mitterrand emphasised that his country staunchly supported the United Nations and European Community strategy in the Gulf, possibly in response to speculation that Iraq saw France, its former friend, as a weak link in the enemy alliance. Yet doubts persist — notably in Britain and the United States — about the strength of commitment in Paris. It arises not simply from opinion polls that show up to 60 per cent of the French turning against war. The real problem is the confusing signals that M Mitterrand and his inner circle have been emitting along with reaffirmations of French solidarity.



Mitterrand: conflict in signals over readiness for war

Critics claim the president's speech to the UN General Assembly last September — appearently offering Iraq a face-saving plan linking retreat from Kuwait to progress on a broader Middle East peace settlement — raised the possibility of Paris taking a separate track from its allies.

Uncertainty about French policy was strengthened by the overt hostility to military involvement of Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the defence minister. The release of all French hostages from Iraq last October aroused suspicions that a deal had been struck, despite flat denials by Paris.

With less than a fortnight until the UN ultimatum to President Saddam expires, French intentions still worry its allies. M Mitterrand's message to the nation on New Year's eve can have done little to help.

Although the president reemphasised France's determination to "apply UN decisions", even if it meant fighting, he also underlined his belief that any peace settlement with Iraq had to contain the seeds of a wider initiative on other festering Middle East problems, such as the Palestinian issue.

In the circumstances, the unexpected departure to Baghdad on Wednesday of one of M Mitterrand's trusted political followers, Michel Vauzelle — head of the National Assembly's foreign affairs commission — was seen by some as a semi-official French initiative outside the scope of European Community strategy.

For all the uncertainty, however, it is barely conceivable that French forces in Saudi Arabia would not be committed should war break out after January 15.

As the EC foreign ministers sit down today in Luxembourg for their emergency meeting on the Community's policy in the Gulf, Germany's Hans-Dietrich Genscher faces the sharpest post-unification test yet of his ability to juggle popularity at home with acceptability to his Nato allies.

Germany will push more openly than previously for an avoidance of conflict as America and Britain intensify preparations for war, for which there is little enthusiasm among the German public, who have been outraged by the deployment of jet fighters in Turkey.

Californians only willing to buy time

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN SAN DIEGO

SOUTHERN Californians came back to work after the holiday to find silent phones, cautious customers and a rare atmosphere of pleasure postponed. The fortnight running up to the January 15 UN deadline has already been dubbed here "the great anti-Christmas".

Outside Bob Baker's Chevrolet dealership in San Diego, Jack Mann looked at a new environment-friendly GEO saloon. He had the money to buy it but, at least until January 16, he decided to hang on to his cash. "I'm superstitious," he said, "and I just don't know what's going to happen."

Some car salesmen see business falling almost to zero until the deadline is passed. The threat of war does not fill minds here, it seems rather to empty them.

The navy wives of San Diego held a patriotic fireworks celebration for their absent husbands at New Year, cheering loudly when a sailor, recently returned from the Gulf, called for President Saddam "to get the licking he deserved".

On the other side, outside the federal government offices in Westwood, Los Angeles, a group of anti-war protesters hold soulful weekly vigils, attempting to recreate the spirit of the Vietnam protests.

The bulk of the population is of neither party. They back the president — for now — and wait. The political temperature here is low — partly because it always is on foreign affairs.

"Southern California played almost no part in the anti-Vietnam movement," says Ronald Brownstein, author of a new book on Hollywood's links with Washington, "and so far it is playing almost no part now".

Both Californian senators, the locally-elected politicians who have the chief responsibility in foreign policy, have other problems on their minds. Pete Wilson is preparing to take up his new job as California governor and Alan Cranston is fighting cancer of the prostate and campaign corruption charges. Much of the liberal community in Southern California is Jewish or has strong emotional ties to Israel. This group has also remained quiet.

California's perennial worry is crime and its most pressing concern is new taxes on cars and boats. Leonard Fagelman's Los Angeles Filo-fax store has not sold a single one of its $1,900 (£1,000) aligator-bound models this holiday.

None the less, questions raised by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait are debated in schools, in contrast to the secrecy of the early days of the Vietnam build-up.

But the call-up of reserves after a long period of peace has meant that many children have lost both parents to the Saudi desert. Teachers report widespread emotional disturbances. Task forces from military bases are touring schools to explain the body bags and biological weapons which are part of the new "educational programme".

It is the sad undertow to the Christmas holiday — and the media have taken up the story strongly. Although about 60 per cent of Californians back the use of force in the Gulf, the 40 per cent that do *not* make up a far higher proportion of the population than at the beginning of the Vietnam war. As the countdown continues, Californians have not faced the reality that war may soon begin and if it goes wrong, even the residents of Redondo Beach, La Jolla and San Diego may turn against it.

Reluctant Mubarak at Libya summit

Nicosia — Colonel Muammar Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, yesterday hosted a summit with President Assad of Syria, President Mubarak of Egypt and Omar Hassan al-Bashir, the Sudanese military leader, aimed at achieving a unified Arab stand (Michael Theodoulou writes).

It was believed that the reluctant Syrian and Egyptian leaders decided to attend the meeting in Misratah after they received advance notice that James Baker, the US Secretary of State, would offer to hold direct talks with Tariq Aziz, his Iraqi counterpart, in Switzerland next week.

The four leaders were not expected to launch any substantial new initiative. "We want to pool *our efforts and unify our positions* to serve the future of the Arab nation," Colonel Gadaffi said, adding that Iraq's unpredictability gave him reason to hope that Baghdad would announce a surprise initiative to avert war.

Leaders on both sides of the Arab divide are united in their desire for peace, but have said that a solution can be achieved only by the international community. Syria and Egypt have sent troops and armour to the Gulf and have channels to Washington, while Libya and Sudan, which have officially condemned the invasion of Kuwait, remain in contact with Baghdad. Damascus and Cairo insist on a total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, while Khartoum and Tripoli back a compromise.

Tank accident kills soldier

A British soldier has been crushed to death while helping to load tanks on to a transporter in the Gulf. Corporal Alan Bolam, aged 30, of the Tank Transport Regiment, was killed on New Year's eve at a military base in the Saudi desert north west of Dhahran. He leaves a widow, Lesley, and three children, who are staying at Mrs Bolam's parents' home in Wallsend, Tyne and Wear. Corporal Bolam had been stationed in Germany.

Exile challenge

Beirut — Iraqi opponents of President Saddam Hussein are to form a government-in-exile dedicated to overthrowing 23 years of Baath party rule in Baghdad, Abu Maytham al-Saghir, a pro-Iranian opposition leader, said. The coalition would include Muslim fundamentalists, Kurds, communists, socialists and nationalists. *(Reuter)*

North Sea alert

Oslo — Oil firms in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea have tightened security against guerrilla attacks because of the Gulf confrontation. "We've had no indication that the risk has changed, but the petroleum industry has updated its existing plans," said Per Saltroe, of the state-funded Norwegian Petroleum Directorate. *(Reuter)*

Business boost

The Welsh drug company, Penn Pharmaceuticals of Tredegar, is extending its premises and increasing its workforce to 100 in response to the Gulf conflict. The company specialises in producing antidotes to the chemical weapons in Iraq's possession. It needs the extra staff to provide sufficient drugs to meet the needs of British troops in Saudi Arabia.

Oilfield security

Dhahran — Saudi Arabia has increased security at oilfields, to counter any possible sabotage attempts by Iraqis. More guards, hundreds of security gates and alarms have been installed at the Dhahran headquarters of the Saudi Aramco oil company. *(Reuter)*

Swimmers' choice

Perth — The International Swimming Federation has rejected a request from Kuwait to expel Iraq. Its president, Mustapha Larfaoui, told a press conference here that Iraq had not breached any rules banning political, religious and racial discrimination. *(Reuter)*

هكذا من الأصل

Fears grow of battle to the death as Somali ceasefire fails

By ANDREW LYCETT

PROSPECTS of a bloody Liberia-style battle to the death in Somalia increased yesterday as warring government and rebel forces failed to observe a ceasefire.

The United Somali Congress (USC), the main rebel group fighting to overthrow President Siad Barre, rejected all calls for a halt to hostilities. It claimed that, from early yesterday morning, it had been reinforcing its troops in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, where fierce fighting has been raging for six days.

Dr Abdullahi Hussein, a spokesman for the congress, said in Rome that President Siad Barre's call for a ceasefire was "designed to give him time to make reinforcements". USC insistence on this point threatens an Italian proposal to evacuate foreigners stranded in Mogadishu. Italy said yesterday that President Siad Barre had given it permission to proceed with plans to evacuate 470 Europeans still in the capital, but emphasised that this was dependent on a ceasefire being observed.

However, Dr Hussein dismissed President Siad Barre's agreement to the evacuation as "a ploy". He said: "We can only accept a ceasefire when President Siad Barre is out of his country or has been killed in his bunker." He added that up to 15,000 more USC troops, armed with heavy weapons, were now arriving in the capital from central Somalia. Independent observers have put the number of USC forces in Mogadishu at 2,000. The Somali army nominally numbers 65,000, but it has been plagued by desertions, and was recently reported to be down to 10,000 men.

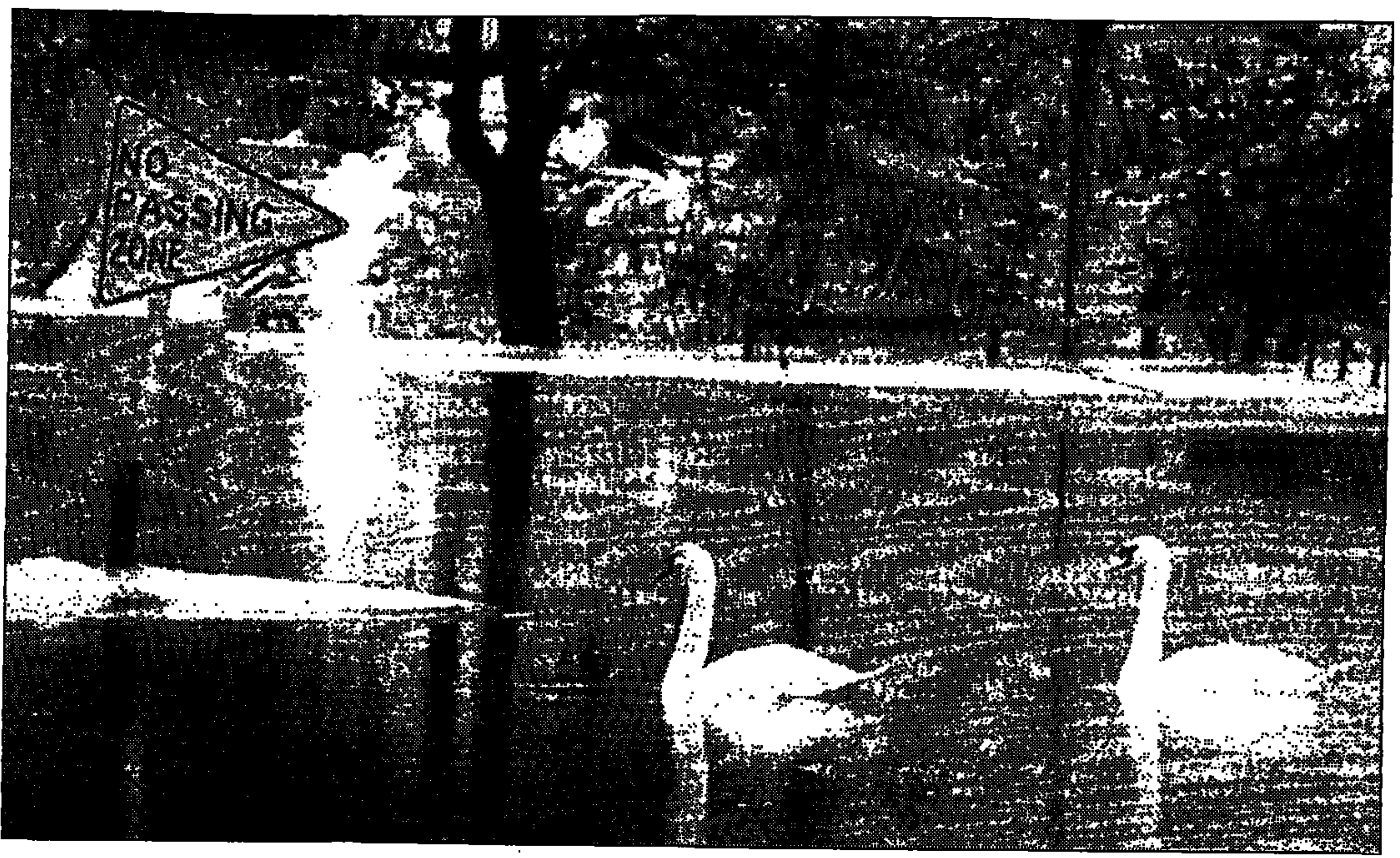
President Siad Barre's appeal for a ceasefire, first heard on Wednesday evening, had been preceded by similar calls from the European Community and President Mubarak of Egypt. The community had expressed concern for its citizens, mainly Italians, who are still in Mogadishu.

Italy has sent four military transport aircraft to Nairobi, where they have been awaiting clearance to fly to Mogadishu to evacuate all Europeans. It also has a warship off the Somali coast.

France also made contingency plans to evacuate its nationals. The frigate La Motte-Picquet, with two Lynx helicopters, was heading yesterday for Somalia from the Strait of Hormuz, where it had been helping to enforce the trade embargo against Iraq for the past two months.

In Mogadishu, President Siad Barre, who took power in a military coup in 1969, is still reported to be holed up in his underground bunker to the south of the international airport. Reuter reported yesterday that USC rebels were advancing on the airport after having taken several areas of the city. Using accounts of witnesses, it said that the rebels held the ministry of health close to the president's official residence in the heart of the city, and the main post office, but the government appeared to be in control of the airport and the port. The rebels had taken buildings around the state radio station, it reported, but not the station itself.

The USC presents government willingness to accept a ceasefire as a sign of weakness. But evidence of government resolve came yesterday in reports that the prime minister, Muhammad Hawadle Madar, in a meeting with leaders of the local Hawiye community, had threatened to order the air force to bomb Mogadishu. Hawiyes, who live in the central region around the capital, are the main source of recruitment for the USC.



Swan lake: a pair of swans gliding along a road in Aroma Park, Illinois, as floods moved southwards across the adjacent American state of Indiana, where high water has forced thousands of people to leave their homes. To the east, the swollen Ohio River flooded low-lying areas along its West Virginia bank (Our Foreign Staff writes). Ohio and Indiana have had one of their wettest weeks on record, which followed an exceptionally wet year. More than 3,000 people have been evacuated in Indiana since the flooding began on Saturday. Serious flooding was expected in southern parts of the state along the White River, which reached its highest levels in 41 years. The Wabash River at Terre Haute was nearly 11ft above flood level. Indianapolis had 2.83ins of rain over the weekend, its greatest 24-hour rainfall for December this century, the weather service said. The Ohio River was expected to reach 8ft above flood level at Point Pleasant, West Virginia. The basketball court of the University of Dayton in Ohio, by the Great Miami River, looked like a shallow swimming pool. Hospitals reported minor injuries and several cases of hypothermia. However, forecasters predicted dry weather over the next few days.

Salvador rebels test US resolve

From TOM GIBB IN SAN SALVADOR

LEFT-WING rebels killed three US servicemen when they shot down their helicopter in some of the heaviest fighting in the countryside for years.

The guerrillas have also begun to use anti-aircraft missiles, which the US fears will shift the balance in the rebels' favour. The increased fighting comes as US commitment to propping up the Salvadorean army is waivering for the first time in the 11-year civil war.

The US helicopter was shot down in the eastern part of the country on Wednesday. A judge identified the three dead servicemen, although they have not been named.

Military soures say the guerrillas ambushed the helicopter, hitting it with machinegun fire from the top of a small hill. In the past month they have shot down a Salvadorean army helicopter using the same tactic, and forced two others to crash land, killing a pilot. They have also shot down two ground support planes using the Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles.

The faltering US commitment is also having an affect on the morale of US troops. "This thing isn't going to end. There is too much hatred and vengeance," one soldier said.

Since the war started, the US has poured almost $4 billion (£2 billion) into El Salvador in an effort to stop rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) taking power. Fifty-five US advisors are permanently based in the country, but with the end of the cold war and a domestic budget crisis, aid levels have fallen by more than a third in the past two years.

The rebels no longer seem the threat they were. In UN-sponsored peace talks they have offered to take part in elections and accept the present constitution in return for a demilitarisation of the country.

In October, the US congress, angered at army human rights abuses, withheld half next year's $85 million military aid budget. President Bush could ask for the money to be restored if the rebels receive significant arms shipment from abroad.

Last week Sandinista army leaders in Nicaragua dismayed Mr Bush by admitting that their officers had defied orders and supplied the rebels with anti-aircraft missiles.

UN may act on Burma

From AFP
IN BANGKOK

A UNITED Nations report on human rights in Burma is likely to prove an embarrassment for the country's ruling military junta, according to diplomats based in Rangoon, and could lead to UN sanctions being imposed.

The report, to be presented to the UN Human Rights Commission next month, is being prepared by Sadako Ogata, who was recently appointed the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The junta closely restricted Mrs Ogata's movements during her stay and there were fears that the military managed to isolate her from pro-democracy supporters. According to diplomats reached by telephone, however, dissidents almost certainly gave her documents.

Deng tells party to focus on reform

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

DENG Xiaoping, the frail Chinese leader who is officially retired from politics, last week urged the central committee of the Chinese Communist party to stop arguing about whether reforms were socialist or capitalist and to get on with improving the economy.

Mr Deng, aged 86, said that reforms should be pursued because only if the economy improved would socialism succeed: if the economy failed, than socialism would be in trouble.

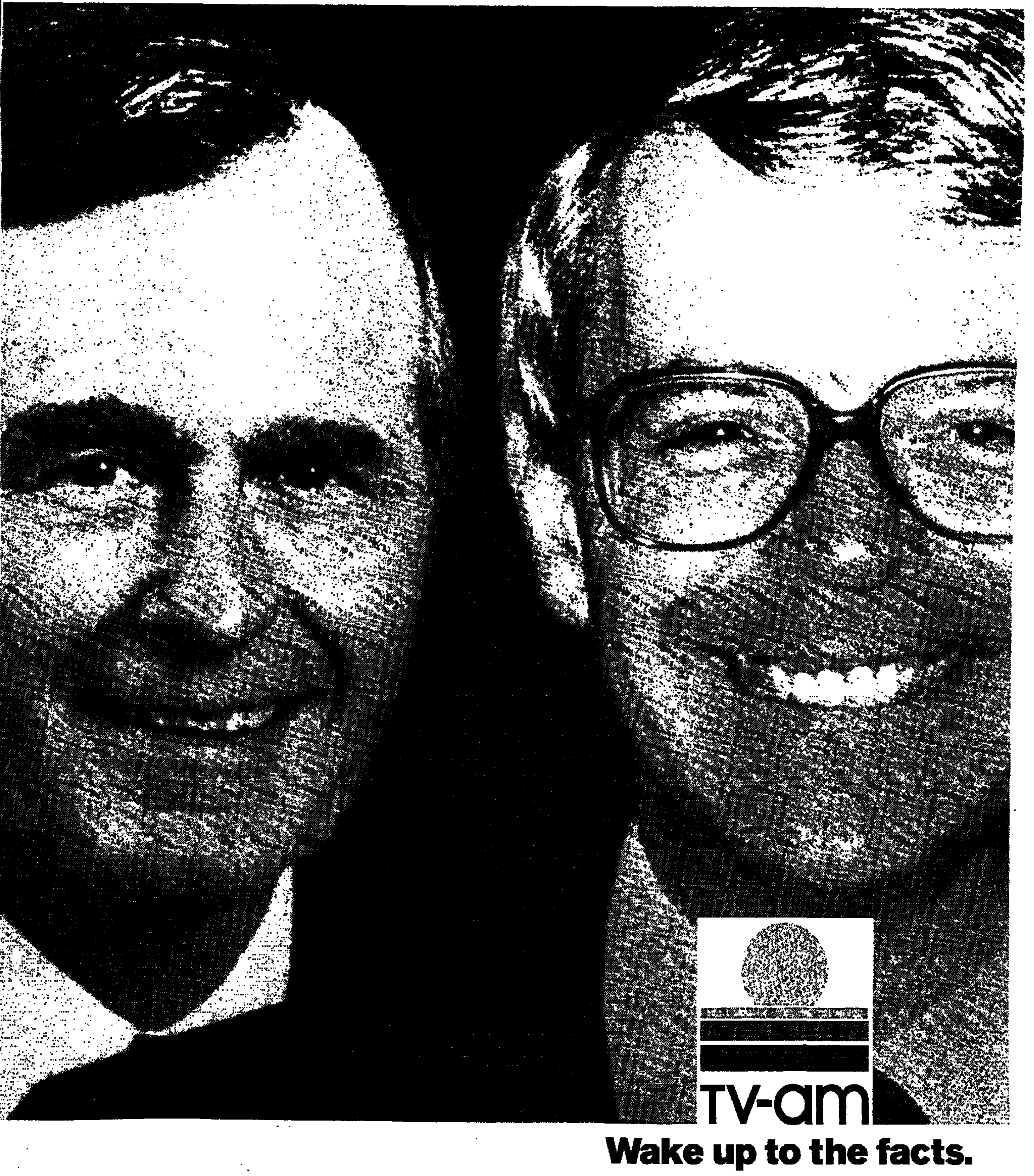
Deng: speech highlights his continuing influence

His address to the plenum highlights his continued role in politics, but it is not clear whether his supremacy remains intact. The central committee communiqué of December 30 echoed Mr Deng's message, emphasising that economic success would have a "direct bearing on the rise or fall of China's socialist system".

Although Mr Deng did not attend the meeting, his words of guidance on the economy over the next ten years were relayed in a speech to the top party body.

According to reports, Mr Deng also urged the committee to examine policies of the last ten years. He had said that the next ten-year development plan should be drawn up in accordance with the lessons of the 1980s.

Bush, Major, Frost. A TV-am Summit. At a time of world crisis, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain discuss their hopes and fears for the New Year in two wide ranging interviews with David Frost. **BUSH AND MAJOR. FROST ON SUNDAY. FROM 7.30 AM.**



TV-am
Wake up to the facts.

Isms for every eventuality

Philip Howard

Is it a schism in theism to look at chrism through a prism? You may well think that, editor. But I could not possibly comment. What does seem to be the case is that in modern journalism we are set about on every side by isms. First it was racism, which ousted racialism. Then came sexism. Then ageism. And now we are attacked for classism, heterosexism (prejudice in favour of heterosexuals), handicappism or disablism (discrimination against the disabled), smokeism (persecution of smokers), and numerous other isms.

What these new kind of isms have in common is the meaning of discrimination on the grounds of something. Now discrimination, in its true sense of adding up the pros and cons, and choosing, is a distinctive human activity. God created man a little above the other animals in our ability to discriminate more nicely between good and evil, and other fine distinctions. Discrimination was originally a good quality, when it was not done indiscriminately. Like élitism, to which it is related, it means to pick out the best. When you are awarding a scholarship, or choosing a choir, or selecting a cricket XI, it is sensible and right to discriminate.

Human nature being only a *little* above the other animals, the good qualities of discrimination and élitism have been blackened and pejorated on grounds that have nothing to do with the case. The new isms describe discrimination for or against somebody on tribal or superstitious grounds that are irrelevant to the choice before us: class, or sex, or stripe of old school tie, or pretty face, or length of skirt, or age. In a perfect world, we should consider the candidates for a job, and discriminate in favour of the élite only in qualities useful for that job. Good at spelling, yes; colour of eyes, irrelevant. When humans are absolutely fair in such complex choices, pigs will fly. But the modern hatred of irrelevant unfairness is admirable. We have to proceed gradually, by making those who discriminate unfairly, subject to an ism, feel ashamed of themselves. But, while we are at it, we might as well set up a flying school for pigs at Beachy Head.

These odd ism words have a curious history. They come originally from the tumultuous tribe of Greek verbs ending in -izo, which we at *The Times*, in our wisdom, have just decided to anglicise as -ise rather than -ize (apart from some irritating exceptions, such as capsize, which just looks wrong as capsise). You could describe this as zedism, or unfair discrimination against the whoreson zed, the unnecessary letter.

Out of these verbs ending in -izo, Greek made nouns of action, naming the process, the complete action, or its result: baptism, criticism, exorcism, nepotism, ostracism. Very early, in an ancient linguistic joke, the -ism ending was tacked on to the name of tribes or groups of people, to mean acting like or adopting the habits of a group of people. Attikismos in Greek, and Atticism in English, means siding with the Athenians, or acting in an Attic way, or the latest Attic fashion or idiom (a tendency of which the Athenians, who spent their time in nothing else but to tell or hear some new thing, approved). Medism, siding with the hated and dangerous Persians, was treasonable, at any rate for patriotic Athenian democrats. Similarly Judaism and Khristianismos, the practice of Christians, Christianity. On this model, medieval Latin scholars formed paganism.

From these ism beginnings came a class of nouns describing conduct, habit, or character, and derived from a noun rather than an -izo verb: barbarism, despotism, heroism, blackguardism, patriotism, priggism. Then there is a group of isms to describe sects or systems, derived from the founder's or promoter's name, or the name of their subjects or objects: Arianism, Catholicism, Epicureanism, ritualism, Romanism, Socinianism, Marxism, Fascism, positivism, modernism, postmodernism. Thence, by extension, come ism designations of doctrines: agnosticism, altruism, bimetalism, deism, egoism (to be distinguished from egotism), hedonism, polytheism, romanticism, universalism.

Then there is a group of isms denoting a trait or peculiarity, as it might be of language: archaism, barbarism, solecism, Graecism, Hellenism, Americanism, Anglicism, Gallicism, Scotticism, colloquialism. In this group there is a large squad of coinages and long-forgotten nonce-words.

Ism is such a versatile little ending in English that it made a word on its own. As early as 1680 we find: "He was the great Hieroglyphick of Jesuitism, Puritanism, Quakerism, and of all Isms from Schism." The little solus word survived, so that in a recent issue of the much-lamented *Listener* we read: "Impressionism became the most successful ism in the history of art."

There is nothing new in the modern spate of isms. They are just the latest tide of one of the oldest processes in the written languages of Europe, inventing nouns ending with ism. In their specialised meaning, of trying to reduce unfairness on irrelevant grounds, they represent a humane, though ultimately utopian, trend.

Janet Daley sees an ominous difference between the declines of Romanov and Gorbachev Russia

Sans teeth, sans tsar, sans everything

The problem with attempting to learn lessons from history is that you can never be sure how closely events will follow the text. Parallels between the declining stages of Tsarist autocracy and the present Soviet crisis have an irresistible poetic irony. In its attempts at democratic restructuring, its vacillation between reform and reaction, and finally its ineffectual isolation, Mikhail Gorbachev's rule resembles more and more the death throes of the Romanov dynasty.

The emancipation of the serfs in 1861 may have been part of a global movement against servitude (which also saw the freeing of slaves in the United States): not so much a sign of enlightened rule as a buckling under irresistible pressure. None the less, it marked the beginning of an inexorable dismantling of sovereign power. The logic of a country of free men was set in train and for the next 40 years Tsarist Russia struggled to contain its implications, swinging between further democratisation and conservative retrenchment.

Even in its last moments, the elective assembly, although hopelessly marginalised, continued to pass optimistic reforms. The *Duma* legislated for compulsory education to be established by 1922. That goal would probably not have been achieved, but there had been real progress towards universal schooling. In 1896, there were 65,000 primary schools educating 3.5 million pupils. By 1915, the number had risen to 122,000 schools with more than 8 million pupils. Along with more widespread basic education, active literacy was expanding. Lenin wrote of the explosion of books and political periodicals after the 1905 uprising: "Popular [political] books became a *market* product."

Such principles as the (theoretical) independence of the judiciary and the right to trial by jury had been established in 1864. Russia was, by the end of the 19th century, attempting to superimpose many of the more sophisticated forms of Western democratic legality on a backward aristocratic society. The mismatch was fatal, as perhaps the mismatch will be between a market economy and an increasingly authoritarian Soviet central government.

Then, as now, reforms gave rise to further unrest. In 1858, 378 peasant disturbances were recorded, whereas in the four months surrounding the emancipation decree of 1861 the number was 1,340. Those who argued for repression then, as now, seemed to have evidence on their side that appeasement of popular dissatisfaction was the road to anarchic ruin. Then, as now, the government infuriated both reformers and conservatives by offering apparent democratic concessions with one hand while retaining real power with the other, teasing disaffection into frustrated insurrection.

When, at the end, Tsar Nicholas attempted to put a stop to it all, to manipulate loyal supporters into crucial positions and put down the uprisings which swept across the country, it was too late. His government no longer held even the military power it had in 1905. Trotsky, in his *History of the Russian Revolution*, describes the Tsarist government as having become an irrelevance, long past the stage of controlling events (as is, increasingly, the government of Mr Gorbachev). He quotes the minister of the interior as saying in 1915: "A government which has not behind it the confidence of . . . the army, nor the cities . . . nor the workers, not only cannot function, but cannot even exist — the thing is obviously absurd."

Why this recurrent paradox of a totalitarian regime seeming to bring about its own destruction by introducing gradual reform? When autocrats begin to dismantle their own absolutism, they seem to break the suspension of disbelief which is required to sustain the tyrannical absurdity. Reforms *justify* rebellion by making it morally credible, rather than mollifying it.

But it is the dissimilarities between the fall of the Tsars and the present Soviet situation which are alarming. The Russians have created a form of totalitarianism that involves more subtle coercion than its predecessor. Political oppression which relies on physical force and economic subjugation is arguably less destructive of *ultimate* recovery than modern methods of mind control. The systematic educating out of all impulses toward individuality and self-determination must be more damaging than no education at all.

While in the 19th century emerging literacy could become a force for personal liberation, Russia now has a generation of people whose literacy has been manipulated in the interests of political conformity. Of course, there is well organised dissidence, but it must cope with a population trained to believe that the human capacities most necessary for recovery are *criminal*.

Where earlier forms of totalitarianism have created their own antidotes through opposition, the Soviet one may have succeeded in disabling any coherent replacement of itself. One senses in the Soviet debate an undercurrent of panic at the enormity of replacing fundamental attitudes. It is almost with relief that the authorities turn to the immediate practical difficulties. Intriguingly, Trotsky writes that the final, pathetic Duma pretended that "the question of power no longer interested it" and occupied itself with the problem of food supplies.

Janet Daley's column will appear every Friday.

Thatcher's negative legacy

Ivor Crewe on research that suggests a decade of Tory reforms will not help the party's re-election chances

The Conservatives' overnight resurgence in the polls after Mrs Thatcher's departure — since reduced but still strong — prompts two very different verdicts on her electoral legacy. The more obvious is that her policy mistakes and style gradually turned her into an *electoral liability*; immediately she was tossed overboard, the Tory balloon rose. The less obvious interpretation is that for all her temporary unpopularity, 11 years of Thatcherism eroded Labour's long-term electoral base and created millions of new Conservatives. For why else did the balloon soar so high?

Mrs Thatcher's design was to inoculate the British against the socialist virus. A property-owning democracy and enterprise culture would replace the welfare society and dependency. The new Britain of self-employed, share-owning home-owners would kill socialism. Did she succeed?

The verdict of recent research is mixed but on balance unfavourable. Structural change has been limited, or has failed to help the Conservatives, or both. Take self-employment. Survey after survey reveals no more ardent Tory than the small businessman or shopkeeper. Turn a redundant steelworker into a self-employed builder and, after a brief transition period, a Labour chrysalis turns into a Tory butterfly.

There *was* a sharp rise in self-employment, force-fed by the manufacturing recession of the early Eighties. Having remained constant throughout the Seventies, the number of self-employed people rose from 1.9 million in 1979 to 3.1 million in 1989 — a much faster increase than in any comparable economy — but as a proportion of the workforce (let alone the electorate), the self-employed are a small minority of 12 per cent, leaving little scope for electoral gains. Moreover, there has been a counterbalancing burgeoning of the population reliant on income support and one-parent benefits, from 3.4 million in 1981 to 5.6 million in 1988. Both "enterprise" and "dependency" communities have grown.

In theory, popular capitalism should have offered more electoral advantages. Conservative strategists assumed that the heavily discounted sale of council houses and privatisation issues would be electorally profitable in the short term, through windfall gains, and in the long term, by giving owners a stake in the nation's wealth.

The social change was certainly marked. Between 1983 and 1987, shareholders in the electorate doubled, from 15 to 30 per cent, outnumbering trade unionists by three to two. Over the decade, more than 1.2 million council houses were sold, accelerating the gradual underlying trend to home-ownership. By 1987, only one voter in four owned neither a house nor shares.

The 1987 BBC/Gallup election-day survey suggests that, so far at least, the electoral dividends from privatisation, while not trivial, have been limited. True, in 1987, first-time share-owners voted Tory in much larger numbers (54 per cent) than Labour (27 per cent), but then they overwhelmingly preferred the Conservatives in 1983, before they bought shares (by 52 per cent to 30 per cent). The effect on the vote was modest: new share purchasers swung to the Conservatives by 2.5 points; non-purchasers swung to Labour by 3 points. Nor are there hints of long-term electoral benefits: among new share-owners, underlying Conservative identification did not strengthen, nor did Labour identification weaken, by more than among those owning no shares.

The feeble impact of privatisation may reflect the small holdings of most share-owners. Housing, of course, represents a much larger investment for most voters. Here, the evidence of successful electoral engineering is stronger. The BBC/Gallup surveys for 1979, 1983 and 1987 show that between 1979 and 1983, the peak period for council-house sales, buyers swung by 17 percentage points to the Tories while non-buyers swung by only 3.5 points. Between 1983 and 1987, the difference was less marked: buyers swung by 0.5 points to the Tories, non-buyers by 5.5 points to Labour.

The limits to this modest piece of electoral engineering should be recognised, however. Council house sales have petered out: they were a one-off bonus to the Conservatives. And council-house sales represented only part of the trend to home-ownership among manual workers; the Tory gains among other working-class home-owners have been slighter. Moreover, those early purchasers who stayed in their ex-council houses have swung back a little to Labour: in 1987 purchasers over the previous four years swung by 2.5 percentage points to the Conservatives, pre-1983 purchasers swung by 2.5 points to Labour. Gratitude had worn thin.

By March 1990 it was disappearing. With mortgages leaping, the Tories were no longer the home-owner's friend. And Labour, keeping quiet about reform of mortgage interest tax relief, seemed no longer his enemy. It had a 46 to 32 per cent lead among mortgage-payers and a slight lead even among outright owners.

The mortgage-rate problems for the Conservatives reflect the electoral downside of the structural changes of the Eighties. Between 1982 and 1989, outstanding debt excluding mortgages more than doubled, both in real terms and as a proportion of household expenditure. Since 1980 household saving (excluding life insurance) as a percentage of household disposable income has steadily declined, turned negative for the first time in 1985, and has since deteriorated further. The credit booms of 1982-3 and 1986-7, fuelled by lowering interest rates and the wealth illusion of rising house prices, swung more voters to the Tories than share issues or house buying. Thatcherism's electoral symbol should be the credit card, not the share certificate or title deed.

A decade ago, interest rates were of limited electoral importance because savers outnumbered debtors, and mortgagees, being higher up the social scale, were stronger Conservatives. Mrs Thatcher's legacy is the placing of interest rates at the centre of the electoral stage. An economic model of the next election prepared by Essex University estimates that lower interest rates will do the Conservatives five times as much good as lower inflation. For every 1 percentage point drop in the inflation rate, at a constant level of interest rates, the Conservative vote is expected to rise a mere 0.2 points. But for every 1 point fall in interest rates, at a constant level of inflation, the Tory vote is expected to rise by 1 point.

When Mrs Thatcher resisted entry into the exchange-rate mechanism for so long she was being electorally expedient. At just the point that interest rates have become electorally crucial, the government has reduced its freedom to influence them.

The author is professor of government at Essex University.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I have, I would submit, been a good Eurobrit. The 30 years which spanned the squeak of Ted Heath's nib on the Rome Treaty and last summer's reclassification of the carrot as a fruit never found my compliance wanting. As CAP and Chunnel and EMS, as this standardising imposition and that, inched slowly towards us — indeed centimetered slowly towards us — like shy teenage fingers walking the back of a cinema seat towards the finally inescapable embrace, I have neither shrunk away nor slapped the ambitious hand. If Europe was to be turned into the nutritious ecopolitical omelette of the universalist's dream, rich, consistent, without lumps, then nationalist eggs had to be broken, and beaten into milk spilt without tears.

That it might also be a horse designed by a committee was not brought home to me until a few hours ago. A straw was laid across its back. The back broke. Prepared as ever to stand up and be counted, I stood up; but they would not count me.

What has happened is that Miss Tahiti has just become Miss France. She may well go on to become Miss Monde, and if she does, that is exactly what the French will call her, because they have never been slow to nick what suits them, and on this occasion, chauvinism and the Académie Française notwithstanding, they are clearly happy to accept that a Miss is good as a Mlle.

Now, let me quickly say that I have nothing whatever against Miss Tahiti. Not content to be almost two metres of tawny lissomness, topped by a coif of spun gold beneath which a brace of green headlamps burn with a feral intensity which would have had William Blake rethinking the whole principle of matchlessness, Miss Tahiti is also a good egg. She wishes to help world peace and understanding and work among impoverished children, while at the same time becoming an international fashion model, which, you will readily concur, is a hell of a workload: you or I cannot quite see ourselves, can we, mincing down a spotlit catwalk in Mogadishu with a bairn under each arm and a set of unassailable proposals for ending the civil war clenched in our perfect teeth?

My grouse is only that the crown that has been placed upon her lovely head rightfully belongs, in my opinion, upon the marginally lovelier head of Miss Littoral Nord. No, let me be specific: my grouse is that I was not allowed to express that opinion. The French would not let me vote for her.

Now, unlike British television, French television continues to transmit beauty contests in great number. It may be because their feminist lobby is either more or less frivolous than ours, it may simply be that their television is lousier, but whatever the reason, their little screens regularly teem, as ours once did, with young women built mainly of leg, tripping back and forth with that curious rolling hobble which indicates that they are either trying to become Miss Quelquechose or making a final dash for the tape in the 20km walk.

Down here in France to celebrate, with my imminent brethren, the last New Year of our separateness, I switched on the box to find a line of tall girls loping past in identical bathing suits of the kind that allow continuity of thigh and armpit to be interrupted by only the merest thread. Behind them, a winking sign testified that they were going for the Miss France gong, while beneath them flashed the telephone number via which the viewers could vote, for that is how they do things here. The Bastille was not stormed in vain.

Miss Littoral Nord shimmied by. Though shorter than the rest, she displayed that foxy *espièglerie* which has cardinals glumly reviewing their careers. I rang up. Expecting a computer to record my choice I was surprised to find a human monitor interrogating me. My accent is not flawless. Yes, I said, I *am* English, but . . .

The monitor was desolated, but adamant. Not French, I could not vote. I put the phone down, and watched Tahiti come home by a nose. Don't talk to me about Europeanism, and stop dangling that carrot. We both know it's a vegetable.

DIARY

Uncompleted story of O

John Major is about to become the subject of rather more biographies than there seem facts to fill them. None, it appears, will be able to settle two questions: did the future prime minister leave school at the age of 16 without an O-level, and precisely how did he spend the six years before joining the Standard Chartered Bank?

Political folklore tells us that after leaving Rutlish Grammar School in Wimbledon, Major was unemployed for a time, failed to secure a job as a bus conductor, mixed some cement and avoided winter blizzards by keeping warm in a Brixton cinema. The details are sketchy: only from the time he joined the bank and came under the wing of Lord Barber does his life come into focus.

The first biography, edited by John Jenkin and already on sale, fails to fill the gaps, though it does refer to Major's brusqueness with a radio reporter when asked about his O-levels. Anthony Howard, the political commentator, says in reviewing the book that unless a proper biographical study is done "the only hope of getting the real John Major to stand up would appear to lie in the pages of a pop-up book".

Edward Pearce's *Never out of the Way*, due in April, will not provide the answers. It starts with Major as a Lambeth councillor at the age of 24. Pearce does not apologise for glossing over the early years: "Everyone knows Major is a man of ability. He has proved it in other spheres, so his scholastic achievements don't matter a brass button. He is educated in life."

Bruce Anderson, like Pearce, will be interviewing the prime minister for *John Major: The Makings of a Prime Minister*. "I don't know whether Major passed any O-levels. He was certainly never heading for a Balliol scholarship."

Lord Blake, historian of the Conservative party, does not understand the fascination with John Major's schooldays and adolescent adventures. "If biographers are that interested they can easily find out whether Major was top of the class. But who cares? It's what he is thinking today that is important."

His servants' voice

More than 12 months after the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu, tales of his bizarre behaviour continue to seep out of Romania. The latest concerns his treatment of a parrot that was kept in considerable style in his palace at Snagov. When the proud owner was absent, servants passed the time in trying to teach the bird to insult Ceausescu. Despite intensive coaching, it remained stubbornly silent . . . until a day when the dictator chaired a meeting in its room. Proceedings were brought to a halt when the parrot flapped its wings and intoned: "Stupid Nico, stupid Nico." The next morning the parrot and cage had disappeared, never to be seen again.

Breaking the ice

The discovery by two British explorers of a previously uncharted lake in Tibet means that China will have to consider commissioning an updated map of the region. Tim Martin, who with William Holgate stumbled accidentally on the eight-mile frozen lake in the foothills of the Arka Tagh, Tibet's most northern mountains, hopes Peking will send an official survey team. But the Chinese may have a problem naming the lake. It has already been named by the adventurers, who call it Fili Pakoll — in honour of Holgate's girlfriend, Philippa, plus "koll", meaning lake in the local language.

The team came close to disaster in crossing the lake to avoid high ground. "Three of our camels fell through the ice," says Martin. "We were able to rescue them all, though one that was totally submerged came out with its coat stiff with ice." The expedition pressed on and eventually found a pass that took them to safety, also unrecorded on Chinese maps. This too was named: Pa Trishadavan — "davan" being the local word for pass, and Patricia, naturally enough, Martin's fiancée.

Gowrie's glory

While Christie's chairman Lord Carrington is understandably proud of his company's new exhibition, *Patronage Preserved*, showing art from country houses, it seems congratulations should be directed elsewhere. Art aficionados believe that much of the credit should go to Lord Gowrie, chairman of Christie's arch-rival, Sotheby's.

Many of the works on show at the exhibition at the St James's headquarters of Christie's were preserved for the nation by Gowrie when he was arts minister. "Some of the acclaim for the exhibition must go to Lord Gowrie," says Sir Hugh Leggatt, an art dealer who approached the peer when he was in government, seeking help to save the treasures of Nostell Priory, in Yorkshire.

"I went to see Lord Gowrie in 1984 with Lord St Oswald, and made him aware of the problems facing the owners of Weston Park in Shropshire and Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire. It was thanks to Lord Gowrie's help that the contents of those houses have stayed in their original stately settings. He got the Treasury to give £25 million."

And will Sotheby's be nodding in Lord Gowrie's direction in recognition of Leggatt's tribute? A large bouquet perhaps, or bottle of champagne? "We have no such plans," says Christie's firmly.

Name of the game

If Labour has been scoring political points lately on the sensitive issue of housing, the Tories may have only themselves to blame. Mail sent to Gerald Howarth, Tory MP for Cannock and Burntwood, the PPS to Sir George Young, the new housing minister, has been inadvertently falling into the hands of George Howarth, Labour's housing spokesman. The problem arises when letters are addressed to Mr G. Howarth at the House of Commons without specifying the constituency or the full Christian name. And the worst offender? Tory Central Office.

All Smith Square staff have now been instructed to address letters in full to Gerald Howarth. At least George Howarth is sporting about the mix-ups, always forwarding the letters to Gerald with a compliments slip.

● *Tim Rice was lamenting the other day that he is now better known as a cricket enthusiast than as the co-author of musicals such as* Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita *and* Chess. *"When I get into a taxi these days the driver invariably asks me about cricket," says Rice. "He usually starts 'Andrew, what do you think about . . .' "*

EUROPEAN JITTERS

As the shadows lengthen, the Continent quails. Today the European Community's 12 foreign ministers will gather in Luxembourg for a meeting which several of the participants have already invested with extraordinary significance. It is being said that a new European initiative could yet uncover common ground between America and Iraq which Secretary of State Baker's exertions over more than five months have failed to detect. A negotiated Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait might yet be achieved "with all the skills of diplomacy" at Europe's disposal, according to the Community's senior foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Is the German veteran's judgment of the wide scope left for jaw-jaw before the January 15 deadline correct?

Nobody doubts that everything compatible with maintaining a principled and united stand against unprovoked aggression must be done to avert the impending war. Enough has been said about the destructive potential of the hosts now assembled in the desert by senior American and British military officers in the war zone to have banished jingoism (if it ever existed) on both sides of the Atlantic. But the continental European view of what may legitimately be done before Iraq complies with the United Nations resolutions appears to embrace a broader range of options than the Anglo-American position, which is that Iraq must leave Kuwait before negotiations can begin.

The dispatch of President Mitterrand's old friend Michel Vauzelle to Baghdad to play what he described discreetly as *"un rôle exploratoire"* suggests that President Saddam Hussein is being asked to set out his terms for renouncing Kuwait. Indeed, some believe that inducements may already have been dangled informally before him.

The first of these is "linkage" between Kuwait and Israel. A majority of EC governments would be content to allow an international conference on the Palestinians to go ahead soon after an Iraqi withdrawal, with only a perfunctory pretence of separating the two events. The danger is that linkage of this kind would appear to concede the principle that one state may hold another hostage in order to enforce its will in some quite different sphere. If linkage helped to stave off war, though, this danger would be one that many in Luxembourg today would be prepared to run.

Nor would flexibility end there. For the French and Germans, a minor Arab dynasty such as the al-Sabahs is also expendable. On Wednesday, Herr Genscher hinted that while Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was not negotiable, the restoration of the Emir might well be. He and the French would doubtless be happy with a deal under which Saddam would withdraw, while boasting that he had deposed a hostile ruler. President Bush, however, is committed to restoring the legitimate government of Kuwait — and that means the Emir.

Again, France and Germany both enjoyed excellent relations with Iraq before last August. They regard UN sanctions as expendable — indeed they want them lifted as soon as possible. By contrast America and Britain have made no promises to Saddam about whether an Iraqi withdrawal would be sufficient to end the blockade. The Atlantic powers would like to use sanctions as a bargaining counter. Ideally, they would force Saddam also to compensate Kuwait, and to comply with an arms control regime that would neutralise Iraq's chemical and biological weapons. Paris and Bonn are silent on this, implying that once Iraq has left Kuwait, the case will be closed. "Nothing less, but nothing more either," Herr Genscher declares.

Whence this readiness to allow Saddam to dictate terms to the mightiest-ever coalition? The student of history will readily understand the German view. Their desire for diplomatic solutions at almost any price is habitual, and in general, desirable. They have sent no troops to the Gulf.

The French, who have large forces under arms, hold a more complex position. M Mitterrand is under domestic pressure to shun what is seen on left and right as an Anglo-Saxon adventure on behalf of Israel. He himself is closer to the Americans, but dare not be seen as such. Hence he must preserve his operational independence, which reduces the military value of the French contingent in the Gulf. Gallic notions of sovereignty have nothing to do with parliamentary tradition, but much to do with an autonomous foreign and defence policy. They will fight on their own terms or not at all. The present terms, they think, are American.

Where does this leave Britain, caught — as usual — between European partnership and special relationship? Douglas Hurd has preserved his sagacious taciturnity as speculation about a European initiative ran riot this week. He could do little else. The foreign secretary can hope to persuade his colleagues to limit the negotiating mandate of any delegate the Community may appoint to meet the Iraqis. But the British need expect no reward from their European partners for a willingness to risk their servicemen's lives. One day Britain's European friends may be grateful. For the present, let them quail alone.

WAY OFF TARGET

Few reminders are left of the Elysian Britain of pre-war days, when everybody said "please" and "thank you" and children could safely talk to strangers. But the sight of the British beat bobby, armed only with a hardwood truncheon, still produces the reassuring feeling that this country is, after all, comparatively tranquil. That their policemen do not routinely carry guns is a matter of pride to the British.

Yet the police themselves still on occasion call for the general issue of firearms. A poll published yesterday by *Police Review* showed policemen to be evenly split for and against such a move. The findings should be substantially discounted because readers were not selected randomly but invited to write in. More worrying, however, the Police Federation, which has always opposed the arming of policemen, is now reconsidering its position. This is despite the fact that a properly conducted poll last year found that more than 80 per cent of policemen were against a general arming.

Naturally some policemen feel that they would be safer with a firearm on their hip. Each time a policeman is killed, this instinct is reawakened. But evidence from other countries suggests that armed policemen are no safer than those who are unarmed. No correlation is apparent between police deaths and the weapons they carry. In America, where every officer carries a gun, Federal Bureau of Investigation reports on police deaths show that most occurred suddenly and unexpectedly; the officer did not have time to draw his own gun from its holster. Worse, one in ten officers were killed with their own weapon. Their guns were snatched and used against them in the sort of brawl that might have been harmlessly defused by an unarmed officer.

There is a need for an adequate armed response to armed criminals. Most British police forces already have armed response units, on call 24 hours a day, who can rush to the scene of a bank robbery or siege. But these policemen are highly trained. Each officer attached to the PT17 unit of the Metropolitan Police spends three months of every year in learning his special skill.

Even with so few armed officers, mistakes are still made and the wrong people are shot. Each time this happens, firearms policy is reappraised and still fewer police officers are issued with guns. Five years ago, Scotland Yard had 4,500 officers qualified to use guns. Today the figure is 2,500 out of a force of 28,000. Arming every police officer would turn that trend on its head. There would be nothing like the money or the expertise needed to train them properly. Inevitably, more innocent people would be shot. And that would lead to a further increase in public distrust of the police.

Guns would have a dramatic effect on the police's relations with the public. Just the sight of a gun in a holster is intimidating enough. Once drawn, even as a precaution, it is terrifying. Turning the British bobby into a member of a paramilitary force would do untold harm to the already strained relationship he has with the people he serves.

NO GOODNESS IN THE WORM

St Patrick's heroic act in casting out all of Ireland's snakes would today run foul of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. The common adder, which every schoolchild has been taught is Britain's only poisonous snake, is to receive the full protection of the law. Mrs Yeobright, bitten by a viper on Egdon Heath in Hardy's *Return of the Native*, would in future be unwise to do more than remonstrate with the creature. Any attempt to see off her attacker by more vigorous means would mean immediate arrest and a fine of up to £2,000.

This is surely greenery run out of control. Ireland has never regretted its lack of snakes, yet nobody has accused the emerald isle of indifference to rural life. A British countryside without poisonous snakes would be a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone. Once safely extinct, few would want the vipers back, any more than the British would wish to reintroduce the wolves that once snatched lambs or babes from their cots. If it is a crime to kill adders, was it not one also to exterminate the smallpox virus?

A dangerous myth that every creature is equally worth preserving has grown out of the admirable campaigns to save the white rhinoceros or the African elephant. Millions of species have died out since life's first stirrings on this planet, yet nobody regrets the loss of more than a handful. All creatures are not equal and we human beings do ourselves no service by pretending that they are. It is, of course, worth preserving genetic diversity; but not at any price. In the scoreboard of human evil the extinction of the dodo counts for little, compared to the annihilation of so many races and peoples.

The protection of the law deserves to be given to those wild animals and birds that bring pleasure and diversity to our countryside. Let us fight for our butterflies and badgers, our otters and eagles. The owl, though feared by earlier generations no less than the snake, is a glorious though increasingly uncommon bird which deserves all the care that its human neighbours devote to it. Bats, the objects of both the solicitude of conservationists and the fury of the householders in whose rafters they live, are a more difficult case. They should not be killed wantonly, but the law should recognize that in large numbers bats may be a nuisance. The same applies to other species.

The adder has less to be said for it than any of them. David Trippier, the countryside minister, should seek to preserve a balance of nature. But let society not waste its tears or laws upon the fate of the venom-filled, creepy-crawly common viper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Pursuing peace in the Middle East

From the Bishop of Salisbury

Sir, The armies now facing each other in the Arabian desert together number more than one million men. The experts tell us that if battle is joined there will be in all at least 100,000 killed and wounded. That takes no account of what will happen to civilians in the battle zone, to the victims of aerial or rocket attack elsewhere, and to the environment.

If we refuse, on the eve of such a conflict, to sit down with the enemy, to hear with an open mind what he has to say, and to search sincerely for even the tiniest chance of some peaceful resolution, that will be a mortal sin for which those responsible will one day have to answer to God.

"Talks" which lay down in advance what the other side is allowed to say are not talks at all, and are bound to be rejected. Why are we so determined to have no genuine talking? It need not condone wrong nor compromise the right. But it offers the only hope, however slight, of securing Kuwait's just cause without resort to destruction and suffering on a scale which will have tragic and incalculable consequences for the whole of the Middle East.

I remain, yours faithfully,
†JOHN SARUM,
South Canonry,
71 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
December 28.

From Mr P. M. Hallam-Baker

Sir, Conor Cruise O'Brien (December 27) puts forward a ludicrous thesis: we must fight a Gulf war now in case there is public opposition later. He writes about the need to humiliate Saddam Hussein but not about the likely cost: no mention of the injured, the mutilated, the dead. Is the need for police action entirely unconnected with the need for cheap oil?

There remains a widespread view that a Gulf war could be short, painless and decisive. There is also a feeling that having assembled such an arsenal in the Saudi desert, for it to return home without victory is to return home without honour.

Will a war bring democracy to Iraq, Kuwait, or even Saudi Arabia? If the West precipitates a conflict, what possibility is there of preserving the international coalition against Iraq? If it collapses, what effect is that collapse likely to have on the power struggle in the USSR?

These are questions that must be addressed before the irrevocable choice to initiate a conflict is made.

Yours sincerely,
PHILLIP M. HALLAM-BAKER,
Wolfson College,
Linton Road, Oxford.
December 27.

Sour grapes?

From the Executive Director of the International Wine & Food Society

Sir, The wine writer's job is no different from that of any other critic: to draw attention to what goods are available, to advise what is worth buying and to warn when to steer clear. He or she remains a writer, with an individual style which will appeal to some people, and not to others.

Roughly two-thirds of the wine bought retail in this country is from self-serve outlets. Their proprietors buy well, sell competitively and stock a huge variety of bottles. One cannot reasonably expect them to provide advice to each customer individually in the way that the traditional wine merchant did and, in many cases, still does.

Rear-Admiral Grenier (December 31) would expel the wine critics and get on with the drinking. As to deciding what to drink, he would presumably leave us with the choice whether to ignore new styles and fresh vintages and confine ourselves to what we already know we like, to base our decisions on the advertising, or to experiment blindly; or maybe, stick to rum.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HUGO DUNN-MEYNELL,
Executive Director,
The International Wine & Food Society,
108 Old Brompton Road, SW7.

Game of the name

From Mr G. Chowdharay-Best

Sir, Listing by alphabetical order of first name (Mr E. J. Nickson, December 19) already takes place for pre-1975 Asian and other names in the British Library catalogue. Not only that, but the spellings of the names were altered to bring them in line with a system only initiates could follow. Thus the first Lord Sinha is not listed under Sinha but only under Satyendra-Prasanna Simha *(sic)*. My mother, Mrs S. D. Chowdhary, appears as Savitri Chaudhari and so on.

It is all great fun, and often ensures that books by such authors lie undisturbed for years. I am sure that future telephone subscribers, if Mr Nickson's suggestion is adopted, will similarly not be bothered by many calls. It will be almost as good as going ex-directory.

Book-indexers, too, should follow Eastern Electricity's lead. The Tony Benn diaries, for example, are full of references to Bob and Ted, Jim and Ray; and after a bit the mind begins to reel. Who are these people, one asks oneself; and the index is no help.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CHOWDHARAY-BEST,
27 Walpole Street, SW3.

Advances in transplantation and the despair of failure

From Professor L. Spitz

Sir, Your leading article of December 31, "Rationing surgery", is unjustifiably negative. The special health authority status granted to the Hospital for Sick Children, by the Department of Health, specifically acknowledges its role as a centre for research and development, in addition to its well recognised functions as a tertiary referral centre and as a centre for teaching and training.

One aspect of research is the pioneering and evaluation of new methods of management. Cardiac transplantation appears to be following the path of renal and liver transplants where high initial failure rates have been largely overcome. These are now commonly used procedures with a high success rate. The entire cost of cardiac transplantation at Great Ormond Street has been separately funded by a supraregional allocation from the Department of Health.

Your article questions the ethics of the medical team at Great Ormond Street. The distraught parents of a newborn infant with a major congenital malformation are rarely capable of making an informed decision regarding the treatment of their child. They are fully briefed about the condition and its likely prognosis but the medical staff inevitably steer them in the most appropriate direction.

There are parents who, despite being given a dismal outlook, opt for treatment, and if there is a reasonable chance of success the surgical team will usually accede to the parents' wishes. For condition incompatible with survival or where the quality of life of the patient would be extremely poor, the option of "no treatment" should and is accepted by the medical staff at Great Ormond Street, as elsewhere.

The media cannot escape blame for the excessive publicity generated by the recent heart transplantation. The peculiar circumstances of a human-interest saga at Christmas time and the paucity of other newsworthy items compounded the publicity.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIS SPITZ
(Nuffield Professor of Paediatric Surgery),
Institute of Child Health,
University of London,
30 Guilford Street, WC1.
January 1.

From Dr A. J. Wing

Sir, Your leading article is right to reflect on the debit side of surgical advances. Resources are not unlimited and the cost of progress in one field may be perceived as the inevitable underfinancing of services in another.

Rationing — yes, but prohibition — no. Transplantation surgery is a great advance in the treatment of otherwise fatal organ failure. The number of patients requiring transplants is relatively small and results of 80 per cent survival at one year followed by less than 5 per cent annual graft loss contrast favourably with surgery for various cancers.

Doctors who work in these areas are not surprised to be reminded of their ethical responsibilities and that these include stewardship of resources. We cannot proceed without the informed consent of our patients and uncertainties in relation to complications always accompany surgical interventions.

When a young child is concerned, as in the case of Christy Strachan, the parent must share in a choice which will sometimes have a "miraculous" outcome, sometimes tragic consequences. The difficulty of ethical decision-taking is not helped by seeking to place, as you do, the burden of the underfinanced health service on the shoulders of a pioneer surgical team and on parents at their moment of personal agony.

Yours sincerely,
ANTONY WING
(Consultant physician),
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.

From the President of Wolfson College, Oxford

Sir, Priorities for patient care need to be established but the question is by whom and on what basis?

Your editorial appears to put the onus on doctors. Is this fair or appropriate? Patients attend doctors in the expectation that their interests and welfare (and sometimes, secondarily, those of their families) will be the dominant factor in the making of medical decisions. This trust is the cardinal feature of a proper patient-doctor relationship.

If a doctor is obliged to withhold potentially beneficial treatment solely on the grounds of financial constraint this trust becomes threatened. Should he explain the facts to the patient? Would it lessen the anguish if he were to be less than honest and simply say that a particular (expensive) treatment was not appropriate for that patient?

Many doctors, faced at the bedside or cotside with such awful decisions, find it ethically unacceptable to resort to this type of subterfuge, which accounts for their readiness to appeal to the media in specific heartrending cases.

When resources for medical care are scarce, doctors have an ethical obligation to use them as efficiently and effectively as possible. They have no such obligation to act as society's agents in rationing on financial grounds the help they can give to individual patients.

Decisions about the allocation of resources to and within our health service and specifically about rationing of selected services such as cardiac surgery, need to be taken by government, preferably after full public debate.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND HOFFENBERG,
President, Wolfson College,
Linton Road, Oxford.
January 2.

From the Chairman of Milton Keynes Health Authority

Sir, In your editorial you make the point that financial imperatives must dictate that NHS managers work out priorities. You are, of course, right, but these will always lead to friction with the public who seem to believe that today's miracle cure automatically will become tomorrow's fundamental human right, in unlimited supply, and free into the bargain.

That we are becoming a healthier society, bearing less physical pain than hitherto, is a matter for rejoicing. But, as Blake said: "Joy and woe are woven fine." The woe is evidenced by the ever-growing legions of barely sentient geriatrics existing in institutions throughout the land. In 1952, the Queen sent 200 telegrams to centenarians. In 1989 she sent 1,750, and the spiral is in bleak ascent in the decade ahead.

When the cost implications of all this are understood I forecast that, as we now have abortion virtually on demand, calls for euthanasia to be legalised will become hard to resist.

Yours faithfully,
TOM BENYON, Chairman,
Miton Keynes Health Authority,
Milton Keynes Hospital,
Standing Way, Eaglestone,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
January 1.

From Dr Michael Udal

Sir, Perhaps *Times* leader writers need to be reminded that Clough's famous dictum — "Thou shalt not kill but need'st not strive/Officiously to keep alive" — is dripping with irony.

Would you also urge, say, financial advisers to follow the advice of a subsequent couplet in the same poem — "Thou shalt not steal; an empty feat/When it's so lucrative to cheat".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL UDAL,
85 Common Road,
Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

School libraries

From the Chief Executive of the Library Association

Sir, There have indeed been "wide and unacceptable variations from one local authority to another" on spending on school library books. (report, later editions, December 19). It is not honest, however, for the Department of Education and Science to claim that under local management of schools the government has ensured that money goes direct to the schools.

In fact, government priorities are pulling in opposite directions. The generally welcome curriculum initiatives are encouraging children to make intelligent use of a variety of resources as an integral part of the learning process. What they find, when they try to do so, is in too many cases out-of-date books or no relevant material at all.

Local management of schools has tended to make the situation worse rather than better. Head teachers and governors, faced with limited finances and rising costs, find it difficult to provide money for good library accommodation, trained professional librarians and up-to-date books and other learning materials.

Hitherto, they have been able to look to the school library service, provided by the local education authority, for collections of materials on loan to supplement their own stock and advice on the best books and other materials to obtain. But the very existence of such services is now threatened, because local authorities are being pressed to devolve the money spent on such vital services to individual schools.

That is not value for money, or saving on bureaucracy. It is short-sighted lack of investment in our children's future.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,
Chief Executive,
The Library Association,
7 Ridgmount Street, WC1.

Black ballet

From Professor Michael Marland

Sir, You rightly end your leader ("Discolouring the dance", January 1) with a hope for "a more racially-mixed audience" for the Royal Ballet, but you overlook the immensely successful educational work which it has been doing for some years with young people of a wide racial mix.

Dancers, musicians, and education officers have brought the Royal Ballet into primary and secondary schools very successfully, and those young people now come to Royal Opera House performances.

As you suggest, black children are as keenly interested in ballet as others. Sadly, some schools act as a "colour-coded" filter, keeping children away.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MARLAND
(Chairman, Educational Advisory Council, Royal Opera House),
North Westminster Community School,
Penfold Street, NW1.
January 1.

Farm policy

From Mr John Peek

Sir, Since the common agricultural policy is no longer in reality an agricultural policy, but a social policy, the way out of the present Gatt impasse is simply to abolish the CAP and replace it with *national* social aid designed to enable farmers to stay put and keep the land in good heart, without producing anything unless it can be sold at world prices.

The original pretext for having a CAP, as enshrined in the Treaty of Rome — to provide a stable foundation for distortion-free trade — is no longer valid in a political context which rejects price-fixing in favour of prices determined by the market.

This has been said before — impotently. But it cannot be repeated too often. The British government should make the abolition of the CAP its condition for moving along the road to a united Europe.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PEEK,
Les Broches, Chambonas,
07140 Les Vans, France.
December 28.

Submarine fare

From Mrs G. L. Nunns

Sir, A celebratory banquet in the Channel tunnel, as suggested by Mr Albert (December 31), would not be the first meal to mark the tunnel project. In 1882 VIPs were conducted round the workings of the first tunnel as described in the *Illustrated London News:*

> They descended the shaft, walked a thousand yards under the sea and admired the working of Colonel Beaumont's compressed air boring machine. They had the electric light by which the tunnel was illuminated from end to end. In anticipation of this visit, Sir Edward (Watkin) had directed a luncheon to be prepared in the tunnel which was partaken of in a chamber out in the side of the heading, tables and stools being set there for the occasion.

Yours faithfully,
GERTRUDE NUNNS,
115 Sandown Road,
Deal, Kent.
December 31.

From Mr Jim Platts

Sir, Surely the location of the dinner also requires consideration. With a twin tunnel being dug, will the British dine in the England to France tube and the French dine in the France to England one? I imagine that the repast will be prepared in the service tunnel.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. PLATTS,
3 Station Road,
Willingham, Cambridge.

From Mr Raymond Durrant

Sir, Dishes for the banquet? Perhaps the financial consultants should be made to eat humble pie.

Yours sincerely,
RAYMOND DURRANT,
195 Marshalswick Lane,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr R. A. S. Moser

Sir, Toad in the hole?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. S. MOSER,
Mill End, Clavering, Essex.

Rail improvements

From Mr David W. Lloyd

Sir, The trouble over the train services to Norwich (report, December 21) highlights how absurd it is for the railways in a small part of England to be operated by three separate agencies.

The London-Norwich line is run by InterCity, although completely detached from the rest of their system. The lines to Harwich (but not Ipswich) and King's Lynn are parts of Network SouthEast, while the trains in the rest of East Anglia are operated by Provincial Services.

If there is a part of England that deserves unified control of its railways it is East Anglia. If all the lines out of Liverpool Street, and the branches connected with them, were operated by a single agency — "Anglian Railways" — this could well become a candidate for early privatisation.

Experience gained from this bold move could be used in considering the far more difficult question of privatising the rest of British Rail.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LLOYD,
17 Fore Street,
Harlow, Essex.

Road congestion

From Mr Charles Bazlinton

Sir, I agree with Roger Ison (December 24) that new drivers are unprepared for motorway driving. Perhaps they could be better prepared for all roads.

New drivers need to be eased on to today's crowded roads more gradually than in the past. I suggest that the age for learners be reduced from 17 years to 16, perhaps with the test delayed to 17 years. Today's teenagers are surely able to cope with accompanied driving earlier than the present limit. An extended learning period would help them — to say nothing of the rest of us.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES BAZLINTON,
Trees, The Avenue,
Alresford, Hampshire.
December 26.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Miss Grace Bumbry, opera and concert singer, 54; Miss Rosalie Crutchley, actress, 69; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, actor, 61; Mr Alan Dyer, chief constable, Bedfordshire, 57; Professor K.J. Hancock, economist, 56; Sir Havelock Hudson, former chairman, Lloyd's, 72; Lieutenant-Commander Sir Ian Clark Hutchison, 88; Sir Leslie Joseph, former vice-chairman, Trusthouse Forte, 83; Professor B. Josephson, physicist, 51; Professor L.E. Lanyon, principal, Royal Veterinary College, 47; Mr John Leese, editor, *Evening Standard*, 61; the Hon Diana Makgill, civil servant, 61; Miss Margaret Marshall, opera and concert singer, 42; Mr Floyd Patterson, boxer, 56; the Earl of Ranfurly, 62; Mr T.J. Rix, publisher, 57; Sir Thomas Robson, chartered accountant, 95; the Rev Edward Rogers, former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, 82; the Earl of Selkirk, QC, 85; Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Wilkins, 58.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, chronologist, Dublin, 1581; Giovanni Pergolesi, composer, Iesi, Italy, 1710; Jacob Grimm, philologist and folk-tale collector, Hanau, Germany, 1785; Louis Braille, inventor of the system bearing his name, Coupvray, France, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Trowbridge, Wilts, 1813; Augustus John, painter, Tenby, Dyfed, 1878.
DEATHS: Stephen Hales, clergyman, pioneer of plant physiology, Teddington, Middlesex, 1761; Henri Bergson, philosopher, Nobel laureate 1928, Paris, 1941; Albert Camus, novelist, Nobel laureate 1957, Sens, France, 1960; T. S. Eliot, poet, Nobel laureate, 1948, London, 1965; Donald Campbell, killed, Coniston Water, Cumbria, *when his* speedboat crashed, 1967; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, 1980.

Luncheons

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host yesterday at a luncheon held at 10 Downing Street in honour of King Husain of Jordan. The other guests were:
Sherif Zeid bin Shaker, Mr Adnam Abu Odeh, the Hon Douglas Hurd, MP, and Sir Charles Powell.

Nottinghamshire Lieutenancy
The Deputy Lieutenants of Nottinghamshire gave a luncheon yesterday at the Sherwood Rangers' Yeomanry Drill Hall, Nottingham, in honour of the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir Gordon Hobday, who is retiring.

School news

King William's College, Isle of Man
Spring term begins today. Michael Deering and Natasha Hookham are respectively head boy and head girl. The college confirmation service will be conducted by the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man, on Sunday, February 24, at 10.30 am. The Adrian Hookham Sevens Tournament for Preparatory Schools will be held on March 2 and 3. Term ends on March 28.

Judge retires

Judge Coles, QC, has retired from the circuit bench of the South Eastern Circuit. She was appointed a recorder in 1972, *took silk in 1974* and became a circuit judge the following year.

Appointments

Mr George Wallace Farmer to be president of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal from January 3 in succession to Mr David Lewis Neve who is retiring.

Fresh look at work of neglected artist

By John Shaw

DEGAS collected him, Whistler thought he was the greatest artist since Hogarth, and Phil May, the famous draughtsman and illustrator, described Charles Keene, a contemporary, as "the daddy of the lot of us".

Since then, he had been largely forgotten but a comprehensive exhibition that could revive his reputation opens in London today.

Keene (1823-1891) was a leading contributor to *Punch* from 1851 until shortly before his death. There have only been two retrospectives devoted to his work and the exhibition offers a much wider scope for critical revaluation of a neglected Victorian reputation.

More than 80 original drawings and water colours, examples of all his etchings and over 20 books he illustrated are on view, together with photographs and other ephemera.

Some of his earliest drawings were in the fly-leaf and margins of the text books at Ipswich Grammar school. A much decorated copy of Homer's *Iliad* is among the exhibits, together with sketches done for pocket money in the 1840s. Most of the technicalities of his craft were learnt working for a firm *of book engravers in the town.* He later struck up a friendship with John Tennial on returning to London and like his friend, who illustrated Lewis Carroll's *Alice* books, Keene became one of the pillars of *Punch* and joined its celebrated "table" in 1860.

Michael Broadbent, a director of Christie's, who organised the exhibition, has collected Keene since the 1950s. He said: "I hope this exhibition helps to revive his name. He was unheralded, unsung, a modest man who never stopped drawing all his life. I think he is brilliant."

Mr Broadbent said that when he began collecting he was lucky enough to buy four Keene drawings for £2 in 1956. *Punch* studies could still be had for £40-£50, but the artist's life studies were now selling for between £400 and £1,000.

Charles Keene of Punch, Christie's, King Street, London SW1, January 4-27. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, Sun, 2pm-5pm. Admission free. Supported by Punch.

OBITUARIES

WING COMMANDER DON KINGABY

Wing Commander Don Kingaby, DSO, AFC, DFM and two bars, Battle of Britain fighter pilot, died in Westfield, Massachusetts, on December 31 aged 70. He was born in London on January 7, 1920.

DON Kingaby had, as pilots go, a long career of continuous combat during the second world war and ended up as one of the RAF's top scoring aces. He was in operational squadrons from just before the onset of the Battle of Britain until after the D-Day landings and his tally of kills was spread throughout that period with a consistency that indicated remarkable resistance to battle weariness. Of his formidable tally of decorations, his three Distinguished Flying Medals are in themselves unique (and an indication of the relatively long time he spent as a non-commissioned officer) when combined with his later Distinguished Service Order; this was the reward of his leadership as a flight and then squadron commander in the years when the allied air forces were getting on top of the German defences. His Air Force Cross (a non-combat medal) was earned in a different sphere in 1952 when he had become an aerobatic specialist on Vampire jets.

Like the best of the generation that contested the long hot summer of 1940 with the pick of the Luftwaffe's pilots, Kingaby combined what seemed a nonchalant approach to his duties with a relentless desire to be at the throat of the enemy. On the ground a pleasure-loving, buoyant young man with a particular love of partying, he was, like his great compeers, Malan, Bader and Stanford Tuck, transformed into a perfectly tuned fighting machine as soon as he was airborne. Only an icy application to his craft and relentless powers of concentration over prolonged periods could have seen him *through a succession of* exhausting days on which he several times engaged three or more enemy aircraft.

A clergyman's son, Donald Ernest Kingaby joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in April 1939 at the age of 19. He was called up when war broke out in September. In June 1940 he was posted as a sergeant pilot *to 266 squadron. He had less* than a month's operational flying with it (during which he did, however, damage two Ju88 bombers and an Me110 twin-engined fighter) before being transferred to 92 squadron in September. The squadron was an outfit congenial to his own temper, renowned for its fighting prowess if not for its smartness of uniform and deportment when not in the *air. Like Kingaby a large* proportion of its pilots were auxiliaries and did not take kindly to what they saw as unnecessary discipline. This had not the slightest effect on a fighting efficiency which gave the squadron its 100th combat victory by October 1940.

By this time the Battle of Britain proper is generally reckoned to have been over as the Germans switched their bombers to night attacks on Britain's cities. But the daylight offensive was continued by their fighters and set Fighter Command new and difficult problems, involving its aircrews in often long climbs and fruitless chases of a much more elusive target than that which had been presented by the bombers. Thrown into the thick of this less rewarding *form of form of combat* Kingaby soon demonstrated his superb skills as a pilot, shooting down four enemy aircraft, of which three were Me109s, in the second half of October. In the next month he shot down six Me109s, four in a single astonishing day, November 15.

This prolific scoring continued into the new year when Fighter Command went onto the offensive with its sweeps over the continent. This was by no means a fruitful period for many RAF pilots — and losses were rather high — but with a dozen more kills to his credit Kingaby was soon being referred to by the press as the "109 specialist".

In October 1941 he was commissioned and taken off operations so that his experience could be put at the service of a training unit. But by March 1942 he was back in the conflict with 111 squadron. By this time a new adversary had appeared, the Focke-Wulf 190, the most formidable interceptor to be fielded by the Luftwaffe to that date and a match for the Spitfire V. But Kingaby took it in his stride and soon became as noted for his capacity to knock the Fw190 out of the sky as he had the Me109.

Later in the war Kingaby was posted to 122 squadron as, successively, a flight and then squadron commander and in March 1943 was promoted to lead the Hornchurch wing. After a further period at Fighter Command HQ he was again back as a wing leader in the summer of 1944 in the air battles which raged over the invasion of occupied France. His last "bag", a share in an Me109 on June 30, was his last combat victory, bringing his total to 23. He also claimed eight probables. After the war he was given a permanent commission, and in the 1950s took naturally to jet aircraft.

He retired in 1958 and several years ago moved with his wife, Helen, to join their two daughters, Patricia and *Susan, in the United States.*

LIAO MOSHA

Liao Mosha, essayist and fierce critic of Chairman Mao and his wife, the "Gang of Four" leader Jiang Qing, died on December 27 aged 83. He was born on January 16, 1907.

LIAO Mosha's moment in the limelight came in a Peking courthouse in 1980 when he had a shouting match with Jiang Qing, who was on trial for crimes committed during the Cultural Revolution. Liao Mosha told in tears how Jiang Qing had slandered him as a "very dangerous special agent" and how during his subsequent imprisonment all his teeth had been knocked out. Jiang Qing interrupted, yelling at him not to make things up and the judge shouted that she was not allowed to speak. Jiang Qing then replied that Liao Mosha was a "renegade and a rotten egg". As everyone shouted at everyone else and the courtroom descended into chaos, some reports quote Liao Mosha as cursing Jiang Qing, saying excitedly: "Shut up, you bitch." Jiang Qing had to be escorted from the courtroom and Liao Mosha continued with his accusation in her absence, shouting and sobbing: "Jiang Qing! Look what evils your people have done, evils too numerous to count!" His testimony helped to bring her a death sentence, which was later commuted to life imprisonment. *Liao* had attracted the unfriendly attentions of Jiang Qing 13 years before by making thinly-veiled attacks on Chairman Mao and had been imprisoned as one of the first victims of what was to become 10 years of chaos and malice and mass persecution.

Liao Mosha worked as a journalist in Shanghai and Peking in the 1930s and 1940s and moved to Peking just before "liberation" in 1949. He became editor of the theoretical journal *Frontline* and editor-in-chief of the party mouthpiece *People's Daily*. He became director of the united front work department in the Peking city government.

His courage in the face of China's powerful political leaders first surfaced in the 1960s. With Wu Han and Deng Tuo, two writers who were, like him, members of the Peking city government, *he wrote essays aimed at* Chairman Mao. Published between 1961 and 1964, they were rich in historical allusion and sarcasm, and on one occasion even suggested that Mao was mentally ill and should retire. The three writers became known as the "three family village", but the extreme *leftists led by Jiang* Qing soon described the three in far more vitriolic terms, such as the "black gang". Liao Mosha was sent to prison for eight years and then to a labour camp for another three years. He was the only one of the "three family village" writers to survive the harsh years of the *Cultural Revolution* and was rehabilitated in 1979, three years after the death of Mao and after the arrest of the Gang of Four. He described the Cultural Revolution as "the great revolution that sent culture to its death."

After his rehabilitation Liao *Mosha* was made a member of the powerless advisory group the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and he kept a low profile. The official news release concerning his death was just one line long, and nowhere in the Chinese media was there an obituary of him. Although *criticism* of the Gang of Four is now sanctioned and indeed encouraged, criticism of Chairman Mao is a far more touchy subject and Liao Mosha's role a sensitive one.

PROFESSOR KENDAL DIXON

Professor Kendal Cartwright Dixon, professor of cellular pathology at Cambridge university from 1973 to 1978, died on December 17 aged 79. He was born on February 16, 1911.

KENDAL Dixon attained international distinction as a cellular pathologist but never became so immersed in his research that he cut himself off from those around him. He strove to nurture the talents of his students, encouraging them when they flagged and praising them when they succeeded. His interest in both their academic development and their welfare continued long after they had gone down.

Dixon was the second of three sons of Professor Henry *H. Dixon, FRS, professor of* botany and director of the botanic garden of Trinity College, Dublin. He entered King's College, Cambridge, in 1930, was awarded a scholarship the following year, and obtained a first class in both parts of the natural sciences tripos. The next three years he spent as a research student in the department of biochemistry working on the carbohydrate metabolism of the cerebral cortex and the Pasteur effect for his PhD which he was awarded in 1936. He obtained his clinical training at Trinity College, Dublin, and St Bartholomew's hospital, London.

In 1937 he was elected a fellow of King's, and two years later he became Fearnside scholar for clinical research in organic nervous disease. However, at the outbreak of war he joined the RAMC as a medical officer, and by 1942 he had become a major as a specialist in pathology. During his military career he was engaged on research over a wide field including relapsing fever, malaria and the early clinical trials of penicillin.

In 1945 he returned to Cambridge, where he was made an official fellow of King's and a university demonstrator in pathology. His research interests had now crystallised into the histochemistry of mammalian cells and in particular the cells of the central nervous system. In 1956 he was awarded the MD for his thesis on "Cytochemical events in the necrosis of grey matter". His international distinction as a cell pathologist was recognised by the university when he was made reader in cytopathology in 1962. It was further recognised by the creation of a personal chair in 1973. He held this until he retired in 1978.

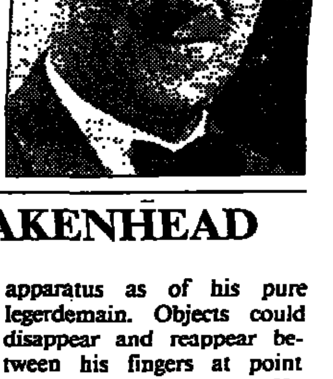
His upbringing in a university family had a great influence on his scientific career. Family holidays at Dooks in Kerry were frequently joined by the brilliant physicist John Joly, associated with Dixon's father as originator of the cohesion theory of the ascent of sap.

When Joly was not sailing, he was frequently walking with Dixon and stimulating his interest in natural science and the scientific approach. Influenced both by his father and Professor Joly, Dixon eventually centred his interests on the cellular level, but he chose the mammalian rather than the botanical cell. His particular interests as a cellular pathologist centred on the biochemical and histological changes produced by anoxia on cells, in particular the neurone.

Dixon was also an expert on antique silver and a connoisseur of wines. For many years he was in charge of the fellows' wines, *during which* time he furnished the cellar with skill and loving care, besides looking after the silver. His chief contribution to college life, however, was pastoral. From 1951 to 1959 he was the college's tutor for advanced students, taking infinite trouble over their selection and welfare. From 1959 he was director of studies in medicine.

His devoted care did not cease when his pupils went down: he made sure that they were entered for the right teaching hospitals, and got the college to entertain them at high table whenever they returned to take final examinations.

In 1938 he married Anne Darley. She and their son and daughter survive him.



EDMUND AKENHEAD

Geoffrey Hucks writes:

AS AN octogenarian crossword addict and fellow member of the colonial service in Tanganyika who knew Edmund Akenhead for 40 years, may I be allowed to add a piece to your obituary (December 24), admirably written so far as it went.

His work as a government conveyancer in the land office did not absorb his energies. His agility of mind was matched by that of his fingers. He was a marvellous conjuror. I remember not so much of his apparatus as of his pure legerdemain. Objects could disappear and reappear between his fingers at point blank range, and so on. He was always in demand at childrens' parties.

Again he was a talented actor and producer of plays for the Dar es Salaam Players, our amateur dramatic society; also a superior chess player and an enthusiastic golfer. We all had to retire early because of the grant of political independence. Only then did he give his full time to crosswords.

King's Christmas message hits sour note in the press

From Harry Debelius
in Madrid

KING Juan Carlos has become a target of snipers in the press for the first time since he launched Spain on the road to democracy in 1976. Normally cautious with his words, the king has always been seen to be unconditionally on the side of freedom; but in his year end message, broadcast on Christmas eve, he appealed to journalists to show "restraint and respect for the truth", a phrase that cocked the snipers' guns, in the wake of complaints by the prime minister, Felipe González, about widespread reporting of corruption.

The reaction was immediate. One television channel explained that all the king's speeches were written at the prime minister's residence. Whether the report was intended to show that the king was not really responsible for what he had said is not clear, but perhaps it was just the kind of story the king had been referring to. It was a half-truth. While the king's speeches are written for him and are co-ordinated with government policy, he retains — and has exercised — the right to alter them.

The king also said in his speech: "It is hard to conceive an advanced democracy without a balance between veracity of information and maximum respect for freedom of expression." One popular columnist, Antonio Burgos, in, of all things, the monarchist daily *ABC* of Madrid, replied that obviously the king was not talking about Spain, since it was far from being an advanced democracy. An editorial comment in the Madrid daily *El Mundo* took the monarch to task for another reason. "We have no objections to his wish, except to ask that his call for responsibility be extended to all sectors of public life. Furthermore, it is worth asking whether this question deserved so much attention from the Crown, especially since there was no room in his talk for a mention of such a crucial problem as the increasing political corruption, considering that the principal motive for friction between the press and the power is the denunciation of that corruption."

Juan Carlos: facing the ire of newspaper writers

Writing a column in the same newspaper, Rafael Torres remarked: "With each Christmas message the king is less understandable ... because he does not live in the same world as the rest of us mortals. I am grateful to the man for sending us a yuletide greeting from the pulchritude of his status, even when there are considerations with which I cannot agree, such as the knuckle-rap for the press ... The king has received a lot of praise for always being in his place; but where he should be at least once a year is in ours."

100 years of lifesaving

THE centenary celebrations of the Royal Life Saving Society began in London yesterday *with the launch of a series of* events to raise its profile (William Cash writes).

The society is the largest water safety and lifesaving organisation in the world, providing teaching programmes in over 50 countries and 150 lifeguard units in Britain. When the society was founded in 1891, over 5,000 people drowned each year in inland waters compared with 528 deaths last year. Celia Godsall, director of the society, said that the majority of drownings were avoidable. "A *child of six can easily perform* resuscitation, it is so easy to learn but most adults would not know where to start," she said.

The centenary calender includes an event at the Boat Show, which opened in Earl's Court yesterday, the first Commonwealth lifeguard championships later in the year and a programme to improve the teaching of lifesaving techniques in schools.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr T.N. Adam
and Miss H.J. Gooch**
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Adam, of Norwich, Norfolk, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gooch, of Albourne, West Sussex.

**Mr C.P. Arbuthnot
and Miss P.J. Dickinson**
The engagement is announced between Charles Petrie, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.K. Arbuthnot, of Ipswich, Suffolk, and Penelope Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F.J. Dickinson, of Kirby-le-Soken, Essex.

**Mr D.J. Bartholomew
and Miss J. Vince**
The engagement is announced between Darren James, son of Mr and Mrs R.A.J. Bartholomew, of Wickford, Essex, and Joanna, daughter of Dr and Mrs F.P. Vince, of Coventry.

**Mr A.G. Bell
and Miss K.E. Seaton**
The engagement is announced between Alistair, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Bell, of Eskdale South, Esk, Queensland, Australia, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Seaton, of Dorchester, Dorset.

**Mr M.P.D. Billingham
and Miss G.A. Slowe**
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mrs Patricia Thompson, of *Redditch, Worcestershire, and* Mr Jeff Billingham, of Monaco, and Georgia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Slowe, of Hampstead, London.

**Mr M.D.R. Clifford-Holmes
and Mrs G. Varma**
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr Hugo Clifford Holmes, of Totnes, and Mrs Gloria Holmes, of Woking, and Gina, *younger daughter of Mr* Victor and Lady Olivia Waldron, of Idleigh Cottage, Meopham, Kent.

**Mr C.R. Elms
and Miss F.J. Tadman**
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G.W. Elms, of Albury, Surrey, and Fenella, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs John Tadman, of West End Mill, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

**Mr C.C. Fisher
and Miss C.M. Bromage**
The engagement is announced between Christopher Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Fisher, of Christchurch, Hampshire, and Clare Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Bromage, of Holme Chase, Devon.

Mr T.H. Gorst
and Miss B.A. Coleman
The engagement is announced between Tarquin, third son of Mr John Gorst, MP, and Mrs John Gorst, and Brenda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Coleman, of Harrow, Middlesex.

**Mr J. Gould
and Miss E.A. Addison**
The engagement is announced from Hong Kong, of Jonathan, son of the late Mr and Mrs Cedric Gould, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Mackie, of Sandhurst, Kent, and formerly of Hong Kong.

**Mr M.C. Hedegaard
and Miss S.A. Cooper**
The engagement is announced between *Michael, son of* His Excellency and Mme Flemming Hedegaard, of Copenhagen, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville Cooper, of Kensington.

**Mr J.N. Holland
and Miss N.A. Chand**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.B. Holland, of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, and Anjali, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.K. Chand, of Kobe, Japan.

**Mr R.R.T. Kirkham
and Miss J.A. Eller**
The engagement is announced between Robin Raymond Tyrwhitt, younger son of Mr Michael and the Hon Mrs Kirkham, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Jennifer Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Eller, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Captain R.M. Pugh-Cook
and Miss J.M.L. Barker**
The engagement is announced between Robert Mark Pugh-Cook, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.G. Pugh-Cook, of Elmbridge, Worcestershire, and Julia Margaret Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C.C. Barker, of Exeter, Devon.

**Mr D.M. Quigley
and Miss C.S. Losse**
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Quigley, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Dieter Losse, of Windsor, Berkshire.

**Mr J.D. Rietkerk
and Miss V.S. Wilkinson**
The engagement is announced between James Dirk, eldest son of Mr and Mrs C. Rietkerk, of Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent, and Victoria Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Wilkinson, of Newton, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

**Mr S.H.J. Robinson
and Miss J.E. Morgan**
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mrs Wendy Cox, of Lyndon, Rutland, and the late Mr Hedley Robinson, of Monkseaton, Northumberland, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Morgan, of Weymouth, Dorset.

**Mr P.R.N. Sillitoe
and Miss J.C. Walsham**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Major F.R. Sillitoe, RM, and Mrs Sillitoe, of Freshwater, Isle of Wight, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Walsham, of West Tilbury, Essex.

**Mr J.D. Taylor
and Miss K.J. Jones**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Taylor, of Kensington, London, and Kelli Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Jones, of Melbourne, Australia.

**Mr M.J. Taylorson
and Miss R.J. Smith**
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Taylorson, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, and Rebecca, eldest daughter of Mr Rex Smith, of Ruthin, Clwyd, and Mrs Jean Walker, of Ludlow, Shropshire.

**Flight-Lieutenant R.W. Thomas, RAF
and Captain C.A. Bentley-Walls, RAMC**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Commander and Mrs N.B. Thomas, of Cornwood, Devon, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Bentley-Walls, of Moseley, Birmingham.

**Mr A.J. Tidd
and Miss R.H. Harsant**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. Tidd, of Gironde, France, and Rosemary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.D. Harsant, of Heswall, Wirrall.

**Mr E.R.L. Welch
and Miss C.A. Panting**
Ian and Norah Welch, of Millview Drive, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear, are delighted to announce the engagement of their son, Edmund, to Carol, daughter of Marguerite Panting and the late James Panting, of Llanhari, South Wales.

Marriage

**Mr M. van Vlaanderen
and Miss J.R. Skelton**
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 29, at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Bromley, Kent, of Mr Marcel van Vlaanderen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Franz van Vlaanderen, of Lusaka, Zambia, to Miss Jane Skelton, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Ralph Skelton.

Historic house gains new future

By Kerry Gill

AFTER being used as an hotel, a sanatorium and a prisoner of war camp, Duff House in Banffshire, an outstanding example of the work of William Adam, a leading 18th century Scottish architect, is to become an art gallery, the government said yesterday.

Once an initial phase of conservation work is completed on Duff House, the National Galleries of Scotland will begin hanging pictures considered appropriate to a country house of its era. The house, built between 1735 and 1741 although never completed, needs many repairs and alterations *before its* potential can be realised.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish environment minister, said: "It is a very exciting prospect, but of course it is also important to ensure that the historic fabric of the house is properly prepared and this takes time. Once the scale of the work is fully appreciated, a realistic timetable can be drawn up."

Duff House became government-owned in 1956 and was opened to the public as an empty shell in 1975. The gallery will be run by Grampian regional and Banff and Buchan district councils. They, with the National Galleries of Scotland and Historic Scotland, have been asked to assess what work is needed.

For it is by our faith that we are put right with God: it is by our confession that we are saved.
Romans 10 : 10 GNB

BIRTHS

BENGOECHEA - On December 13th, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Wendy (née Ringrose) and Mark, a daughter, Isabella Rose.

BIGGOOD - On January 3rd, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Imogen (née Slater) and Patrick, a son, Thomas James Kirwan, a brother for Lydia and Francesca.

BOWYER - On December 28th, to Victoria (née Townsend) and William, a daughter, Harriet Victoria.

BRADNAM - On December 29th, at Grantham Hospital, to Sarah and Stuart, a son, Thomas Stuart.

BROWN - On December 25th 1990, at Mamaroneck, New York, to Minna and Kenneth, a son, Jonathan Michael.

DOW-SMITH - On December 1[illegible]th 1990, at Farnborough Hospital, Kent, to John and Kate (Saxby), a daughter, Catriona (Trio), a sister for Jake and Finlay.

GOODHEW - On December 31st, at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and Graham, a son, Alexander Graham.

HOBSON - On December 29th, to Dominic and Jamanda, at St Thomas's, a son, Ivo.

JEFFS - On December 28th, to Lucinda (née Parker) and James, a son, Oliver Thomas Anderson, a brother for Edward.

MACSWEEN - On December 21st, to Jane and Norman, a daughter, Christina Isabel, a sister for Ivar.

MEREDITH-HARDY - On December 29th, to Nicky (née Lindsay Smith) and Richard, a daughter, Alexandra.

MICHELMORE - On January 3rd, to Catherine (née Stephens) and Christopher, a son, a brother for Henry.

NOBLE - On December 23rd, to Frances (née Smart) and Nicholas, a daughter.

PENDREICH - On December 27th, at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline (née Williams) and John, a son, Corey.

POWELL - On December 19th 1990, to Lorraine (née Couture) and William, a daughter, Katherine Emma.

PRENDERGAST - On December 30th 1990, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Gillian (née Rowles) and Andrew, a son, Frederick, a brother for Tessa, Andrew and Thomas.

RANDOLPH - On December 21st, to Sally Ann (née Hall) and John, a daughter, Hermione, a sister to Edward.

THOMAS - On January 1st 1991, at The Portland Hospital, to Lynda and Lee, a son, Lee Rawlings, a brother to Aimee and Angelique.

TRUSLER - On January 1st, at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona and Colin, a boy, Barnaby Colin Innes.

VARE - On January 1st, to Sia (née van Deutekom) and Anthony, a daughter, Rosie, a sister for Holly.

WALKER - On December 31st 1990, to Christopher and Pe[illegible]y, a daughter, Emily M[illegible].

WHYTE - On December 29th 1990, in London, to Alastair and Kathleen, a son, Louis George.

DEATHS

ALDER - On December 30th 1990, peacefully, MariAnne, widow of Peter and much loved mother, grandmother and friend. Private funeral, family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to The Abbeyfield Stewartry Society, Alma House, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire.

ANDERSON - On January 3rd 1991, peacefully at home, John Murray Anderson M.C. & Bar, beloved husband of Gillian and father of Sarah, Elisabeth, James and Camilla. Funeral on Tuesday January 8th at 2.30 pm at St Bernard's Catholic Church, Lingfield. Family and friends welcome.

ASHER - On January 2nd, peacefully in Reading, Rose, aged 90, wife of the late George Asher and beloved mother of Doris.

BULL - On January 2nd, suddenly at home in Fleet, Hampshire, Peter Richard. Dearly loved husband of Rosemary and father of Camilla and Anthea. Enquiries to A & W Goddard Ltd, Funeral Directors, Kent Road, Fleet, Hampshire, (0252) 616431.

BOTHWAY - On January 1st 1991, at home, Henry Edwin, aged 76 years. Loved and loving husband of Rosemary, father of Robert and Colin. Funeral Service at Wymondham Abbey Church, Norfolk, on Tuesday January 8th at 10.45 am. Private cremation to follow. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research Fund may be sent c/o Messrs R.J. Bartram & Son Funeral Directors, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0DB, please.

BRIERLEY - On December 31st, at St Antony's Hospital, Cheam, Ann Mackay Brierley, sister of David and Peter, much loved aunt and great-aunt. Requiem Mass at 1.30 pm on Thursday January 10th at St Philomena's Convent Chapel, Carshalton, followed by cremation at St John's Crematorium, Woking at 3.30 pm. Flowers to W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd., 118 Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey. Donations if desired to Association for International Cancer Research, Springfield House, West Street, Bristol.

CAINE - On January 2nd, Sydney Caine K.C.M.G., aged 88. Much loved husband of Elizabeth, previously of Muriel and Doris, father of Michael, grandfather and stepfather. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on January 8th at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only. Memorial Service in London to be arranged later.

CORRIE - On January 2nd 1991, Helen Cecil, mother of the late William Pritchard-Gordon. Service at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, on Monday January 7th at 11.30 am.

DODD - On December 21st in hospital, Dr Bessie Dodd FRCOG, aged 80 years, of Walton House, St. Helens, daughter of the late Archibald and Mary Dodd, much loved by her niece Sheila and cousin Jean. Funeral service and committal took place on Thursday January 3rd at St. Helens Crematorium. Donations if desired to St. Helens and Knowsley Leukaemia/Cancer Fund, c/o Dr Tappin of Fairfield Hospital, Crank, St. Helens. All enquiries W.G. Dixons, 0744 23007.

FISHER-ROWE - On December 24th, peacefully, Marjorie, aged 97 years.

FISKE - On January 2nd, in hospital in Banbury after a long illness, Dudley Astley, aged 61. Formerly Chief Education Officer of Manchester. Beloved husband of Patricia. Dearly loved by all his family. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Hook Norton, nr. Banbury, Oxfordshire, on Thursday January 10th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Banbury Hospital and Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J & M Humphris, Albert Street, Banbury.

GILBERTSON - On December 27th 1990, Jean Irving (Scott-Moncrieff), peacefully at Broadford Hospital, Isle of Skye, following a stroke. Beloved wife of Dr. Michael Gilbertson, wonderful mother and grandmother. Cremation has taken place.

HAMMILL - On January 2nd, peacefully, Anna Bertholde Frances, aged 93, widow of Captain J.S. Hammill, C.B.E., R.N. Mother of Gillian and Alison. Funeral at Wickham Parish Church at 10.30 am on Tuesday January 8th. Donations to Sue Ryder Foundation, Cavendish, Suffolk.

HEWLINGS - On December 29th 1990, suddenly and peacefully at home, David George, aged 75. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Mount Park Road, Ealing, at 2.15 pm on Thursday January 10th 1991. No flowers, donations to The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, 96 Grafton Road, London NW5. All enquiries and letters to Christopher Wickenden, 71 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, W7 1LJ.

HOOD - On January 2nd, William Reynard (Ray), who will be sorely missed by his wife Constance Daisy to whom he had been married for 64 years, his brother George, his son Keith, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, friends in Goring-by-Sea, Ashtead in Surrey and at 'Lakeside' Upper Norwood, where he and Daisy have been living recently. Cremation on Friday January 11th at 1.30 pm at Croydon Crematorium, Thornton Road SW16. Family flowers only please. If wished donations may be sent to Keith Hood, 7 Park Mansions, London SW11 4HG for Cancer Research.

HURLL - On January 1st 1991, Alfred William (Fred), C.V.O., C.B.E., aged 85, peacefully in hospital. Former Chief Executive The Scout Association, beloved husband of Elsie Margaret and father of Michael and Margaret. Funeral Service at St Augustine's Church, Whitton, Middlesex, 12 noon, Friday January 11th. Flowers & enquiries to T.H. Sanders & Sons Ltd., 132 High Street, Whitton.

JOSEPHS - On January 3rd, Ellis. Funeral will be held on Friday January 4th at Bushey Cemetery at 12 noon.

KIMBERLEY - On December 27th 1990, after a long illness, Lt-Cmdr. William Ralph. Requiem at Chichester Cathedral at 11.15 am on January 11th 1991, followed by committal and cremation at Chichester. Flowers and enquiries to Edward White and Son, 5, South Pallant, Chichester, tel: (0243) 782136.

LEACH - On January 2nd 1991, in hospital after a short illness, Joan, widow of Kenneth. Funeral at Hele Road Crematorium, Torquay, at 11.30 on Wednesday January 9th. Family flowers. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Torbay and District Funeral Service Ltd., 11 Babbacombe Road, Torquay.

MANNHEIM - On December 27th, Andrew, of a sudden heart attack, at home in Kew. Private family funeral to be arranged.

MATHESON - On January 1st 1991, after a short illness, Ronald McCulloch Matheson L.V.O., R.D., F.C.A., aged 76. Loving husband of the late Joan, father of Margaret and Peter and grandpa of Caroline and Tim. Funeral Service at Beckenham Crematorium on Thursday January 10th at 2.30 pm. Donations if desired to Churchill Ward, Orpington Hospital. Enquiries to H. Copeland & Son, (081) 650-2295.

MILLER - On January 2nd, peacefully, Florence Margaret, much loved mother of Pamela and Michael. Funeral arrangements will be announced shortly.

MORTON - On January 1st 1991, in a nursing home near Cambridge, G. Mary Morton, in her 88th year, for many years on the staff of The City of London School for Girls. Funeral St Mark's Church, Cambridge, Wednesday January 9th at 12.15 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

NEALE - On December 30th 1990, at The Royal Free Hospital after an extended illness, Cecilia Kate, aged 80 years. Beloved mother of Barbara and Donald, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Marylebone Crematorium at 3 pm Friday January 11th. Donations in lieu of flowers to North London Hospice, 269 Ballards Lane, N12 8NR.

NIMMO-SMITH - On January 2nd, suddenly, Joan, very beloved wife of Dr. Robert Nimmo-Smith and mother of John and Richard Conquest. Funeral Service at the East Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium, on Monday January 7th at 3.20 pm. No flowers by request; if desired, donations to: Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincolns Inn Fields, WC2A 3PS.

NORTH - On December 31st, peacefully at Highlands Hospital, Beatrice Alice, in her 96th year, dearly loved mother and granny, sadly missed by Frank, Mary, David and Hazel. Funeral Service at St John the Evangelist, Palmers Green, 2 pm. Cremation at Enfield, 3 pm January 14th 1991. Flowers to A. Seaward and Son, 448 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, N13, or if preferred, donations to St John's Church c/o St John's Vicarage, 1 Bourne Hill, Palmers Green, N13.

PENTLAND - On December 29th, peacefully at Bere Hill House Nursing Home, Whitchurch, Hampshire, Florence Rebecca Pentland, Group Captain W.R.A.S. (Ret'd), aged 77, elder daughter of the late Major and Mrs Robert Pentland and sister of the late Marguerite. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, St Mary Bourne, nr Andover, Hampshire, at 2 pm on Tuesday January 8th 1991, followed by cremation Service at 3 pm at Salisbury Crematorium, Salisbury, Wiltshire. At her request, donations if desired instead of flowers to R.A.F. Benevolent Fund at 67 Portland Place, London W1.

PERHAM - On January 1st 1991, peacefully at Exmouth, in his 93rd year, Stanley. The last surviving brother of Reginald, Harold, May, Doll, Lilian, Norah, Dorothy and Blanche Burgis. Formerly of Nestles, Switzerland and the Isle of Man. Service, Tower Street Methodist Church, Exmouth, Wednesday January 9th at 12 noon. Flowers and enquiries to Crews & Son, Tower Street, Exmouth, tel: 264751.

PRICE - On December 24th 1990, Herbert Ernest Meredith (Merrie), late of Saintbury Lodge, Killiney, Co. Dublin. Peacefully after a short illness in Jo'burg, survived by Veronica, Roger, Beth and Charles.

RAHIMTOOLA - On January 2nd 1991, peacefully in Karachi, Pakistan, Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola (Pakistan's first High Commissioner to London).

RAPHAEL - On December 31st, peacefully, Cynthia. Beloved aunt of Henry. Funeral Service Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday January 9th at 11.20. Family flowers only, donations to Injured Jockey's Fund, PO Box 9, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8JG.

SIMKINS - On December 31st, at the Maelor Hospital, Wrexham, Rupert Mann Simkins, aged 91 years. Schoolmaster on the Classical side, Manchester Grammar School from 1921 to 1966. Funeral Service at Emmanuel Church, Penyffordd, Chester, on Wednesday January 9th at 11 am, followed by cremation. Flowers, or donations to Meadowslea Hospital League of Friends c/o O.W. Ellis Funeral Directors, (0244) 532218.

STIRLING - On January 1st 1991, Patrick, much loved husband of Marietta and loving father of Charles and Charlotte and grandfather of William, Frances, Patience, Alexandra, Marietta and Freddie, peacefully in hospital. Funeral on Tuesday January 8th at Farmington, Gloucestershire at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

THACKRAY - On January 2nd, peacefully in her 89th year, at Hill House, Ellington, Dorothy Mary (formerly of Great Stukeley). Beloved wife of the late Harold and much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral at Great Stukeley Parish Church on Wednesday January 9th at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations to Great Stukeley Parish Church c/o Dennis Easton Funeral Service, The Lodge, Broad Leas, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

THOMPSON - On New Year's Day, peacefully in Pietermaritzburg, Kay (née Blackwood), aged 82, widow of Richard, loved mother of Julia Wollen and Nicky Ing and dear Shu-Shu to her eight grandchildren.

WINTOUR - On December 26th 1990, John, beloved husband of Florence and dear father of George, Charles and Alexandra. The funeral service has taken place.

YOUNG - On December 29th, Denys John, at Cawston, Norfolk. Funeral, Friday January 11th at St Mary's Church, Theydon Bois, Essex, at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children c/o Messrs Warriner, Church Hill, Loughton, Essex.

YOUNGS - On New Year's Eve 1990, suddenly, Shiela Davidson Porter, aged 77 years. Loving and beloved wife of Hugh of Swingfield Street, near Folkestone. Funeral Service at Barham Crematorium, near Canterbury, on January 9th 1991 at 12.30 pm. Donations if desired to R.N.L.I. or flowers c/o Chittenden's Funeral Services, 1 Ingoldsby Road, Folkestone.

ZINKEISEN - On January 3rd, aged 92, peacefully at home, Doris Clare, painter and wife of the late Captain Grahame Johnstone, D.S.C., R.N.V.R. and mother of Janet, Anne and Murray. Funeral at 10.30 am Thursday January 10th at St John the Baptist Church, Badingham, Suffolk. Flowers to Moore Bros., 15 Station Road, Framlingham, Suffolk.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

WEATHAM - Nancy. Funeral on Monday January 7th, 2.30 pm, at Whittington College Chapel, East Grinstead.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ANDREAE - A Service of Thanksgiving for Philippa will be held at St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle, near Ledbury, Hereford, on Tuesday January 29th at 2.30 pm.

ANDREASEN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mogens Andreasen will be held at Charlton Village Church, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire, on Sunday, January 13th, 1991, at 1730 hours.

BROWN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Isobel Christine Stewart Brown O.B.E., S.R.N., R.S.C.N., R.N.T., who died on November 13th 1990, will be held at The Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond Hill, Richmond, Surrey, on Wednesday January 16th at 2 pm. Transport will be arranged from and to the nearest car park (Pembroke Lodge) in Richmond Park.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

ELIOT Thomas Stearns. January 4th 1965.

" We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time."

Valerie

MARRIAGES

ALLEN:PYBUS - On December 22nd 1990, the marriage took place between Mr Douglas Robert Allen and Miss Siân Elizabeth Pybus, at St Luke's College Chapel, Exeter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANTATION: THEIR ONLY HOPE

Life saving treatment is known but unavailable through lack of funds and donor kidneys to thousands of Britain's kidney patients. Please help us grant a reprieve for some of them this year.

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BLANCHFLOWER - Violet Maryon Blanchflower, (née Prinsep) born 18th June 1899, died 31st May, 1990. Relations should contact surviving son Robin. Reply to Box No 2398

BIRTHDAYS

PRUE - Murphy,
Is 50 today.
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from the O.G.A.

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ISLINGTON 5 mins Angel tube O/R in v. comfortable mais. £70 pw. 071-354 1045

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WANDSWORTH Professional non-smoker to share house with small garden. Close BR. £320 pcm. 081-877 9143.

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CLAPHAM Sunny, open plan newly conv 2 room sngl flat. Bthrm & kit. Roof terrace. CH inc. £120 pw. 071-622 4914.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ATKINSON, LENNARD ATKINSON otherwise LEONARD ATKINSON late of Hallgarth, Hallgate, Cottingham, Humberside died There on 20th April 1989
(Estate about £34,000)

BAKER, GEORGE EDWARD BAKER late of 30 Jacobs House, New City Road, Plaistow, London E13 died There on or about 10th April 1990
(Estate about £31,275)

BROOK nee MORRISON, BEATRICE BROOK nee MORRISON, Widow late of Brackenhurst, 1 Fieldhouse Drive, Leeds died At Leeds on 24th August 1990
(Estate about £119,000)

CHOPPING, ANGUS WILLIAM CHOPPING otherwise ANGUS CHOPPING late of 15 Paslowes, Vange, Basildon, Essex died At Basildon on 6th November 1989
(Estate about £20,980)

DAVIS ANTHONY COLIN DAVIS late of 54, Churchfield House, Duddeston Manor Road, Nechells, Birmingham died There on or about 1st November 1988
(Estate about £14,300)

GILBY otherwise GILBEY, THOMAS WILLIAM ARTHUR GILBY otherwise THOMAS WILLIAM ARTHUR GILBEY late of 16 Beaulieu Road, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, Hampshire died There on or about 1 July 1990
(Estate about £33,000)

HONE, WILLIAM JOSEPH ARCHER HONE late of 30 Carmelite Road, Gosford Green, Coventry, West Midlands died At Coventry on 16th December 1989
(Estate about £19,000)

KNOTT, ELSIE MURIEL KNOTT Spinster late of Avalon Residential Home, 1 Elmsleigh Road, Paignton, Devon died At Paignton on 22nd August 1989
(Estate about £21,000)

PREECE, ALFRED THOMAS PREECE otherwise ALFRED PREECE late of Springfield Hospital, 61 Glenburnie Road, Tooting, London SW17 died There on 14th August 1985
(Estate about £6,000)

QUINN, HONORIA QUINN otherwise NORA QUINN, Spinster late of 60B Mornington Terrace, Camden, London NW1 died At Islington, London, N19 on 19th January 1990
(Estate about £28,000)

TUCKER, ABI MAY TUCKER, Spinster late of Horton Hospital, Long Grove Road, Epsom, Surrey died There on 16th December 1989
(Estate about £9,870)

WHITTACKER, MATILDA WHITTACKER, Spinster late of St. Anne's Home, 60, Durham Road, Holloway, London N7 died At Holloway on 18th January 1990
(Estate about £7,200)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICES

BFC COURIERS LIMITED
Registered number: 2067585. Nature of business: AIR COURIER SERVICE. Trade classification: 32. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 13th December 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: National Westminster Bank PLC. JOHN D. COLEMAN AND DAVID A. ROLPH. Joint Administrative Receivers (Office holder No's 53 and 511) both of St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London, EC4P 4BN

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No. 383 of 1990
IN BANKRUPTCY
PETER STEVENS
Of 6 Kirton Walk, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 0TY

I, John Michael Thompson of Cork Gully, Shelley House, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7DQ Hereby GIVE NOTICE that I have been duly appointed Trustee of the above named Bankrupt at a meeting of creditors and that my appointment was duly certified by the Secretary of State on 31 July 1990

All persons having in their possession any of the assets of the bankrupt must deliver them to me, and all debts due to the bankrupt must be paid to me.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must forward their Proofs of Debt to me.

Dated this 18th day of December 1990
John Michael Thompson
Trustee

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
SALVAMORE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 142/148 Main Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6NZ on the 16th day of January 1991, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act, that is,
1. The nomination of a Liquidator
2. The appointment of a Liquidation Committee
Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above Meeting must be lodged accompanied by Statements of Claim, at the Registered Office of the Company, situated at Messrs Booth White & Co, 142/148 Main Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6NZ not later than 4.00 p.m. on the 15th day of January 1991.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that COLIN GEORGE WISEMAN of Messrs Booth White & Co. 142/148 Main Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6NZ is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above Company and will furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the above Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 20th day of December 1990
By Order of the Board
C. EVELYN-RAHR
DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER
LAKEHEATH CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
Property Situated at:- 6,7,8 Nelson Mews, Southend. Registered Number: 1213148. Date of appointment of Receivers: 17 December 1990. Name of person appointing the Receivers: Midland Bank PLC. A R Houghton and N C Atkinson. Joint Receivers office holder nos. 1652 and 1502. Address: 55/57 High Holborn, London WC1V 6DX.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
K C D (London) Limited
I Terence Charles Carter of Ernst & Young, York House, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7UT hereby give notice that on 17.12.90 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required on or before 22 February 1991 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to me and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 19.12.90
T. C. Carter
LIQUIDATOR
N. B. This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been paid in full but if any person considers he has a claim against the company he should send in his claim forthwith.

Notice to Creditors of Section 48 Meeting. Insolvency Act 1986
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
H G SANDERS & SON LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
A meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at Touche Ross & Co. 55/57 High Holborn, London WC1V 6DX on 15 January 1991 at 3.00 pm to receive the report of the Joint Administrative Receivers under S48(2), and to consider whether a Committee of Creditors should be established under S49 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A creditor is entitled to vote at the meeting only if:
a. Written details of the claim are given to the Joint Administrative Receivers before 14 January 1991 and the claim has been admitted.
b. Any proxy for use at the meeting has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receivers.
A form of proxy is enclosed. Claims and proxies should be sent to the Joint Administrative Receivers at 55/57 High Holborn, London WC1V 6DX. Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Dated 28 December 1990
S J AKERS and A R HOUGHTON
Joint Administrative Receivers

PANELWALL LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
Formerly MAA Management Services Limited, LJA Management Services Limited, Michael A Ashcroft Associates Limited, Michael A Ashcroft Consultants Limited.
COMPANY NUMBER: 1171889
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF PANELWALL LIMITED
On 19 December 1990 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Antony Robert Fanshawe of Fanshawe Lofts, Havelock Chambers, Queens Terrace, Southampton SO1 1BP was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, to the above address by 25 January 1991 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 21 December 1990
A R Fanshawe
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FREDA HOLDINGS PLC
THE PRIME CORPORATION PLC
(BOTH IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBERS 2196891 and 2199260
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) Insolvency Act 1986 that creditors of the above named company may apply to the following address for a free copy of the report of the joint administrative receivers prepared in accordance with S 48(1) of that Act
Dated 28 December 1990
For and on behalf of Freda Holdings PLC
The Prime Corporation Limited
N G ATKINSON and C MORRIS
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
55/57 High Holborn
London WC1V 6DX

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF NEILRO LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 9th January 1991 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Terence John Roper, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2A) of the said Act who will furnish creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 20th day of December 1990
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
N. ROSEN
DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICES

TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE TIMES
PLEASE TELEPHONE DEBRA GYNN ON
071-782 7344
FAX 071-782 7730

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN THE MATTER OF MADIGON (MADIMARSO LIMITED)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on Monday 7th January 1991 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Terence John Roper, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 19th day of December 1990
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
J. HAUPTMAN
DIRECTOR

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF OXBRIDGE AUTOMATION LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 23rd January 1991 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 19th day of December 1990
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
T. O'KANE
DIRECTOR

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF CRESTCOOMBE SERVICES LTD
TRADING NAME: THAMAS RESTAURANT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 21st January 1991 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 18th day of December 1990
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
R. BARTELLA
DIRECTOR

INNEPLUSH NUMBER TWO LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
Formerly Panelwall Limited
LJA Management Services Limited
COMPANY NUMBER: 1716502
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF INNEPLUSH NUMBER TWO LIMITED
On 19 December 1990 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Antony Robert Fanshawe of Fanshawe Lofts, Havelock Chambers, Queens Terrace, Southampton SO1 1BP was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, to the above address by 25 January 1991 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 21 December 1990
A R Fanshawe
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Bowater [illegible] Limited
I Terence Charles Carter of Ernst & Young, York House, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7UT hereby give notice that on 17.12.90 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required on or before 22 February 1991 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to me and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 19.12.90
T. C. Carter
LIQUIDATOR
N. B. This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been paid in full but if any person considers he has a claim against the company he should send in his claim forthwith.

JAN 4 ON THIS DAY 1876

In the past few years there have been criticisms of the quality of the national water supply but 100 years ago it was claimed that the "question will no longer be 'where to obtain pure water' but how to obtain it in the least impure state".

◆

OUR WATER SUPPLY

To judge by the Reports of the Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into the pollution of rivers, it is not in our streams that we ought to look, under present conditions at least, for our water supply; and their latest Blue-book, devoted specially to the "domestic water supply of great Britain" shows that mills, ponds, and springs, are too often fouled by the infiltration of water from polluted sources. Indeed, if we are to accept the chymist's conclusions, we must make up our minds at once to drink water containing more or less of impurities; and the question will no longer be "where to obtain pure water" but how to obtain it in the least impure state.

The Commissioners say:— "The results of our investigations show that as soon as water quits the vaporous condition and assumes the form of clouds and rain, it becomes more or less contaminated by atmospheric impurities. When it reaches the earth it flows over surfaces or percolates through strata more or less soluble, and thus acquires further impurities in addition to or sometimes in the place of those which it had previously contracted from the atmosphere. It thus becomes — in some cases more, in others less — suitable for domestic use."

Most of the water from springs and deep wells can be easily and cheaply softened on the large scale by a process known as Clarke's process.

As to rivers, the Commissioners say, "When the sewage of towns or other polluting organic matter is discharged into running water, the suspended matter may be more or less perfectly removed by subsidence and filtration, but the foul organic matters in solution are very persistent. They oxidize very slowly, and they are removed only to a slight extent by sand filtration. There is no river in the United Kingdom long enough to secure the oxidation and destruction of any sewage which may be discharged into it, even at its source. Of all the processes which have been proposed for the purification of sewage or of water-polluted by excrementitious matters, there is not one which is sufficiently effective to warrant the use for dietetic purposes of water which has been so contaminated. In our opinion, therefore, rivers which have received sewage, even if that sewage has not been purified before its discharge, are not safe sources of potable water." Since it may be said that all our rivers or at least all such as are of sufficient volume to afford an adequate quantity of water for the supply of towns, are polluted by sewage, it follows that it is not to them that we must look for our water. The water delivered to London and derived from the Thames and Lee is notoriously bad.

Shallow wells, generally, are polluted, and contain water perfectly unfit for use. In London, all the shallow wells, with the exception of one supplying the pump near the south-east entrance to Kensington-gardens and a well at Maritime Almshouses, Mile-end Old Town, are "most disgustingly polluted," and the Commissioners recommend that they should, with these two exceptions, be forthwith closed. It would appear, from a paragraph we recently published, that the pump water in Lincoln's-inn deserves also to be excepted from the general charge.

Deep wells and springs generally furnish an abundant quantity of wholesome water; but with the exception of these and the stores contained in the high lakes of Cumberland and Westmoreland, of North Wales and of Scotland, there are little means of affording an adequate supply to London and other towns. As far as the Metropolis is concerned, the chalk wells, according to the Commissioners, are capable of yielding enough water for the use of its inhabitants, and the Commissioners think that there is no necessity to have recourse to the schemes proposed for drawing water from the Cumbrian lakes — schemes which they believe to be perfectly feasible and satisfactory although extremely expensive and unnecessary.

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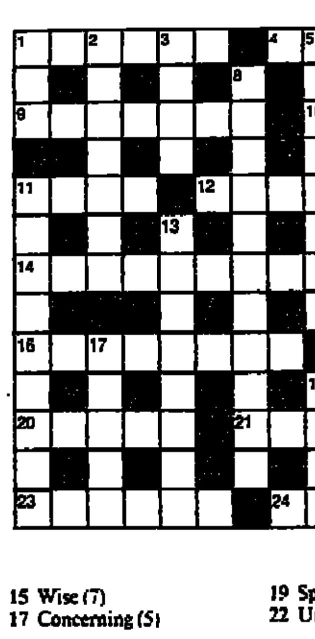

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Is Britain going barking mad?

As Birmingham prepares to play host to Crufts next week, **Alan Franks** examines an ambivalent affair

MICHAEL WARD

Love is a warm puppy: Lord Hailsham and Deirdre Shannon (with Spot, their pet Jack Russell) at their wedding in London, in 1986

The whole, very English idea of an owner coming to resemble his dog is, and always has been, nonsense

I know a man who dances with his bull terrier; not a down-on-all-fours-pretending-to-be-a-dog dance, but a cross between a waltz and a Catalonian stomp. It is very funny and rather dangerous, like Oliver Reed at a *thé dansant*. They hold each other in the textbook manner, just proper enough not to be called passionate, and waft towards the open French windows and the verandah beyond. It usually happens after he has dined not wisely but too well, and the potent charm of cheap gramophone music has smuggled affection into his bloodstream.

So much for the dog. The man shows similar symptoms, and it is obvious that the two respect each other in the harmony of movement. It could just be love.

A single brief glance should be enough to persuade the onlooker that the whole, very English idea of an owner coming to resemble his dog is, and always has been, a nonsense. There is simply no need for such a *rapprochement* of styles, for the simple reason that it has already been done; the man has got the dog precisely because its looks are an expression of his own self-image. That function has been a vital clause in the unwritten contract between owner and owned since the date of purchase.

When the Rhodesian ridgebacks, Weimaraners, softcoated wheaten terriers, schipperkes, Norwegian Buhunds, affenpinschers and the rest come to compete in the hound, gundog, terrier, utility, working and toy groups of next week's centenary Cruft's Dog Show, it is not just dogs that will be on display, but a whole range of human aspirations wished into canine form.

All this should not be thought strange. Six out of ten British dog-owners take their dogs to bed. (Who would put money on this being a significantly lower proportion than that of husbands who do the same with their wives?) Some dance with their dogs, others sleep with them, and almost all talk to them. This addressing of an animal in a language which is Greek to it may appear lunatic, but, if they did not have the dog, the chances are they would be talking to themselves, which would be seen as madder still.

We have not coalesced, nor even co-existed with the dog to our mutual advantage, so much as invented the thing by a combination of prinking and training and cross-breeding until it came to satisfy our decorative and functional needs.

Only when you scratch the surface of the greater self-image, the national one about us being a whole consortium of dog-lovers, do you find the lie beneath the truth, the dog beneath the skin. There has to be a catch, and it is this: love, when applied to the British and their canine dependency of 7.4 million, really does mean love. And love, in turn, means not only cherishing and mourning, but all the other darker impulses which stalk the emotion: snubbing, resenting, subverting, neglecting and betraying.

How else are the joyless bits of information to be explained? In 1989 the RSPCA successfully prosecuted 131 owners for cruelty, a record figure since the foundation of the society in 1924. Almost 45,000 complaints were under investigation during the same period. And while the RSPCA found homes for 46,739 abandoned dogs during that year, it was also compelled to destroy a further 52,844. Recorded incidents of cruelty to dogs rose by 10 per cent in the first nine months of last year.

If it is possible to institutionalise neglect, then this particular NDL (Nation of Dog-Lovers) can be said to have brought it off in 1988 with the abolition of the licence on the specious grounds that, at a mere 37p, it was costing more to collect than the revenue it generated. Even countries which do not figure in *our* national consciousness as shining NDLs have registration in some form. Britain is alone among EC nations in having none.

To persevere with the preconceptions of love, we must consider its conditional aspect, for in the British man/dog arrangement it is also its most prevalent one. Once the creature has been subjected to the stifling experience of anthropomorphosis, it often follows that human standards of compliance are expected of it, without the legal or moral safety nets which prevent most infants being flung out if they do not come up to snuff. There is salutory evidence on this from Valerie Pratt, who in 1970 opened an independent organisation named the Central Dog Registry, the aim of which was to reunite lost dogs with their owners. This it did, and was successful in 95 per cent of the cases it handled. In commercial terms, however, it was a flop, and finally limped out of being in 1988. The problem was that there were not enough dog-lovers who loved their dogs enough to hang around for the five-minute exercise of having an identity tattoo scratched (painlessly) into the back of the right hind leg.

For all that the love is conditional, the proportion of dogs in the United Kingdom that go into care is less than 10 per cent of the total population. It would take only a mild abuse of the statistics to demonstrate that this makes our relationship with dogs no worse than our relationship with humans. In the view of the animal behaviourist Dr Roger Mugford, to whom serious dog talk eventually leads as surely as roads to Rome, there is a pleasant informality in the way we carry on with dogs, and this reveals the nicest aspects of human need. Dr Mugford is admirably firm on the attraction of apposites: ownership of an afghan or saluki is almost always female, or else homosexual, just as possession of a samoyed or malamute invariably denotes machismo.

We have five phases in our cycle of relationships with dogs: the appearance stage, when the creature will, like the owner, be an expression of vigour, pose, poise, fashion, sexual potency and all the other standard ingredients of youth; then comes the macho bit, malamute man; then the family phase, when the function expected of the dog is that of baby-calmer and comforter of neglected wife — golden retriever days; next, the child-substitute dog once the children have left home, and finally the retirement dog, an elderly dachshund perhaps, or else a bull terrier, dancing or otherwise.

But there is a threat from the cat as surrogate dog for working couples who leave their households empty during the day. In terms of status however, let alone grandeur, the cat will never make it. Listen to John Gay, in his *Elegy on a Lap Dog*, and try substituting cat for dog. It carries mock-heroic to the point of hilarity.

He's dead. Oh! lay him gently in the ground!
And may his tomb be by this verse renowned:
Here Shock, the pride of all his kind is laid,
Who fawned like man, but ne'er like man betrayed.

Or even to a non-Brit, Mark Twain, in *Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar*: "If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. That is the principal difference between a dog and a man."

Of course it is love, for we catch ourselves unawares and fall headlong into one last, rabid hypocrisy. So much do we adore the dog that we reserve for it a bowl of attributes which we withhold from ourselves; at the same time, when we contemplate and then reject a particularly vile course of action, we declare that we "wouldn't do it to a dog". So do we disparage some hideous form of existence as "a dog's life". So which of the two clichés have we allowed to sneak past against our better instincts? The doting or the disparaging?

There is worse, and newer. An ugly woman is described, even in some supposedly civilised circles, as "a dog". Does this mean that the maker of the remark in fact loves her, since he belongs to a nation of dog-lovers? Or is it simply consistent with the rhetoric of demeaning, designed to take the dog down along with the woman? And what on earth does it tell us about the English (male) attitude to women? If it has half the ambivalence of his, and her, attitude to dogs, then God help us all.

Where the rod still rules

Corporal punishment in schools has taken a caning in recent years, but strongholds remain

PARENTS prepared to pay for the privilege of having their children beaten at school are discovering that it is increasingly difficult to find establishments that will do so.

The cane mutiny, which brought about the abolition of corporal punishment in state schools in 1987, has spread into the private sector, causing a growing number of independent schools to spare the rod.

Although this is Britain's first No Smacking Week, there are still parents who seek out schools that offer what is delicately described in prospectuses as "a positive attitude to discipline".

According to the Rev Canon Charles Johnson, the provost of the £6,000-a-year Seaford College in West Sussex, and, until last year, the school's headmaster for 46 years, many parents send their sons there because it is one of the few public schools which maintain the use of the cane.

Canon Johnson says he has not used the cane for about ten years — on that occasion it was for a case of shoplifting — but he considers it a useful deterrent. "Sometimes, when a boy is in serious trouble, it is a good weapon to keep in the armoury," he says. "It sometimes brings them down to reality if they are being very silly."

The school canes a boy only after consulting his parents, and Canon Johnson regards it as "a last resort. History will tell you that you have, sometimes, to wake a chap up and make him realise what he's doing. There are lines that must not be crossed."

This is not a view shared by most head teachers at public schools. They believe that modern education has no room for formal displays of premeditated violence. Only 12 of Britain's 579 private secondary schools retain the option of beating their pupils, a figure that has more than halved in the past three years. They include St James's Independent School for Boys, in south Kensington, London.

"One of the problems is that quite a lot of parents want this damn thing to go on," says Klaus Boehm, the co-author of *The Equitable Schools Book*, an annual guide to independent schools. "My view is that it is just like child abuse — if you have suffered it yourself, you immediately go and inflict it on the next generation. The general attitude among the schools that still use the cane seems to be, 'We have always done it, why change?'."

He believes that newspaper reports after the publication of the first edition of his book in 1987 resulted in several schools abolishing corporal punishment. Mill Hill School, in north London, Framlingham College, Suffolk, the Oratory School, Berkshire, and Ryde School, on the Isle of Wight, all recently removed corporal punishment as a disciplinary option.

Mr Boehm says it is mostly preparatory schools which uphold the Dickensian tradition of whacking pupils, a practice he describes as "sheer mass brutality".

An anomaly is that only pupils whose fees are entirely paid by their parents can be beaten legally — unlike children on assisted places. "The absurdity is that you get in the same school two classes of pupils, the beatable and the unbeatable," says Peter Newell, the co-ordinator of Epoch (End Physical Punishment of Children). "It is outrageous and indefensible. The current position has no logic or morality whatever. The more isolated it becomes as a practice, the more likely it is that the people who are doing it have seriously warped, sadistic reasons."

Even in Scotland, where standards of discipline in schools are traditionally higher than in the rest of Britain, caning is less popular among independent schools than it was. At the Edinburgh Academy, where corporal punishment still exists, it has not been used for about five years. "Before that, there were two people who used it because they were in the habit of doing so," says the academy's rector, Laurence Ellis. "But they have left."

Although he caned boys as a housemaster at his previous school, Marlborough College, in Wiltshire, Mr Ellis now prefers to punish them by detention, and, in extreme cases, solitary confinement with the potential of expulsion. He believes that, while beating may be justified for "silly things", such as the occasion when a boy smeared jam over another's belongings, "if it's a big important matter, it does not affect the issue at all. If you are up against someone who is a bully you are simply using the same weapon." His suggestion that caning be formally abolished was recently turned down by the school governors due to "a body of opinion who felt it was the best form of punishment".

Geoffrey Parker, the high master of Manchester Grammar School and the chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, which represents about 230 independent schools, regards corporal punishment as "a barmy practice", and does not use it at his school. He has, however, administered the cane himself in the past. "In the case of some boys, it was a shock that worked," he says.

He believes there were benefits for teachers because, "although it is an appalling thing to say, it sometimes was a way of expressing real anger on the part of the member of staff concerned, and that is more difficult to do now because the violence is part of the anger".

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A mystery solved, a life remembered

A year ago six babies died in an intensive care unit. A father describes how the questions asked then help him now

On Sunday it will be a year since my daughter Roxanne died in hospital, aged 18 days. She was our first child, and when friends learnt that Roxanne was one of six babies who had died of a "mystery virus" in the Brompton hospital and that her death and short life were to be the subject of an inquest, their sympathy was even greater.

To them it seemed that, on top of everything else, we had to face new uncertainty over the cause of her death, media interest, and a full investigation into the care given her. But we now realise that the investigation, and even the accompanying press speculation, in confronting any doubts over her care may have helped us deal with the unique distress of losing a very young child.

Roxanne was born at St Helier hospital, in south London, on December 18, 1989. At 1oz under 9lb, a beautiful, strong baby, she gave us no clue as to the malformations inside her chest. She took to breast feeding easily, and as new parents we found endless pleasure in watching her every movement, imagining her to be angry or mischievous.

A slightly raised temperature — possibly due to an infection from the not uncommon act of swallowing meconium in the amniotic fluid — meant she must stay in hospital a little longer.

Even when she was moved down the corridor to the special care unit, for 24-hour observation, our only concern was that her infection would clear up in time for us to take her home for Christmas. But all that changed on Christmas eve.

Having collected my wife Claire at lunchtime, we returned to the hospital expecting to feed and settle Roxanne for the night and then to come back next morning to fetch her home for Christmas breakfast. She was still in her cot when we got to the hospital, but while we had been away she had become breathless and a plastic box had been placed over her head to supply her with oxygen-enriched air. The nurse said it would be OK to breast-feed her as usual, and Claire gratefully picked her up while I held a tube near to Roxanne's nose to blow oxygen over her face. But despite the oxygen she began to pant and her colour changed markedly. Claire was now very frightened and, though desperate to cuddle Roxanne, asked the nurse to put her back in the oxygen box, where she continued to breathe erratically. For the first time since her birth we now knew that she was in serious difficulty. A little later, when we were taken aside and asked if we had any pictures of Roxanne, and whether we would like to have her baptised, we were left in no doubt about just how ill our baby was.

She was rapidly transferred to the Brompton hospital, in west London, one of the premier units in paediatric heart problems, where she was put on a ventilation machine and given a number of drugs to try to stabilise her heart condition. There was no restriction on our access and for the next ten days we watched as doctors and nurses worked unceasingly to give Roxanne a chance of life, including surgery for two of the many heart problems we now realised she had.

At first we would hope to hear that she had had a stable night, and that her drug levels had been reduced or her ventilation had been turned down. Then we learnt that being stable was no longer good enough; she had to show some signs of improvement, or she would never be able to come off the ventilator.

The pattern that developed was that she would become very ill, then the doctors would manage to stabilise her, albeit at a more serious level than before. Every day we could see in numbers and coloured lines how her battle for life was being fought. But, no matter how ill she was, we found that when we were at her bedside we always felt more reassured than when we were away.

On Friday, January 5 the problems of fluid in her lungs, which she'd had from the start, seemed a little worse. Even so the doctors managed to stabilise her again and we, in our one-day-at-a-time manner, allowed ourselves our daily ration of optimism and went home.

At 9.30pm, we got the call we had been dreading. Roxanne had become very ill, and if it were possible for us to come in then we should. She died at 7am the next day. We watched impotently as the numbers — heart rate, blood pressure, blood oxygen content — slowly fell, indicating she was moving towards death. Around us the nurses and doctors fought on. While she was still just alive they allowed Claire to hold Roxanne while I cuddled Claire. Together we watched the various gauges start to flash as her functions became too faint to measure. When all the ventilator tubes and probes had been removed, I was taken by surprise at how beautiful she still was.

The finding of the inquest was that Roxanne had died from natural causes as a result of congenital heart disease, combined with a mirror-image arrangement of her internal organs and adult respiratory distress syndrome. This last factor, also known by the more descriptive term lung-shock, meant the lining of her lungs had died, and was the main subject at the inquest. Though she had had surgery, her operation was not normally serious enough to cause this kind of symptom.

Newspapers had speculated that a "mystery virus" was involved. The Brompton had decided to close its paediatric intensive care unit for cleaning two days before Roxanne died, moving the babies to another ward. Another possibility was that a toxic chemical could have got into the lungs during treatment.

To investigate the causes independent consultants from national bodies examined aspects of care and submitted evidence to the inquest. Every aspect of Roxanne's treatment was held up to scrutiny, and every facet of the Brompton's care and the standards of its staff was found to be completely blameless.

The inquest closed 19 days after Roxanne's death, 13 days after she had been cremated. Though she had lived for less than three weeks, the inquest seemed to extend her life. Immediately after her death we were worried that she had slipped in and out of this world with too little disturbance, and wondered if we might come to doubt that she had ever lived. We did have some photographs taken of her before she became ill. But now, as a result of the inquest, we also had a scrap-book of newspaper cuttings to prove that she had existed.

We hope that the inquest has answered all the questions we might ever want to ask about her care. We had ourselves seen how everything possible had been done to try to give Roxanne a chance of life, and we believed nothing had been overlooked. Now we have something to hang on to that many parents could never have: proof.

JONATHAN CAMPBELL

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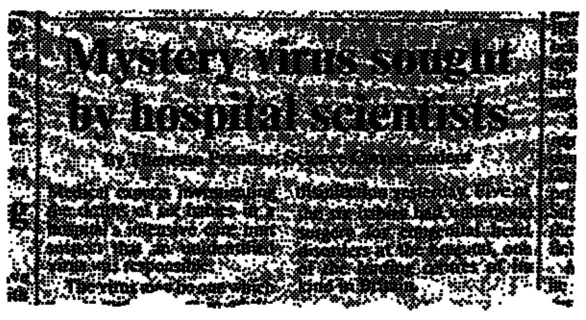
● *The inquest into the deaths at Brompton Hospital failed to find a common factor. Only three babies had almost identical symptoms; two were suffering from heart complaints which led to their deaths.*



Mystery virus sought by hospital scientists

How *The Times* reported last January on the "virus"

هكذا من الإصل

GALLERIES

Rediscovery of England's quiet genius

Victorian artist Charles Keene and a show which places fine art works in their patrician context, reviewed by **John Russell Taylor**

Since so many exhibitions these days are predicated on an anniversary, it is probably wise to begin the new year by taking a deep breath and celebrating the first centenary which hoves into view. As it happens, **Charles Keene** died on January 4 1891, so the centenary show which opens today at Christie's could hardly be more timely.

But is it important? This is a year which will also commemorate Seurat, Ernst, Géricault, Stanley Spencer and sundry Old Masters. It cannot be claimed that Keene rings many bells in the art world today: the usual response is "One of those *Punch* cartoonists, wasn't he?" While someone who is pigeonholed along with Du Maurier, Tenniel and Raven-Hill is not necessarily negligible, it is not either a formula for instant excitement. And yet, testimonials of the grandest sort are not lacking. Whistler said he was the greatest artist since Hogarth. Degas was shattered by the brilliance of his draughtsmanship. Pissarro was another enthusiastic admirer, observing to his son Lucien "Remember, England has Keene, he does not exhibit, he is not fashionable, and that is everything."

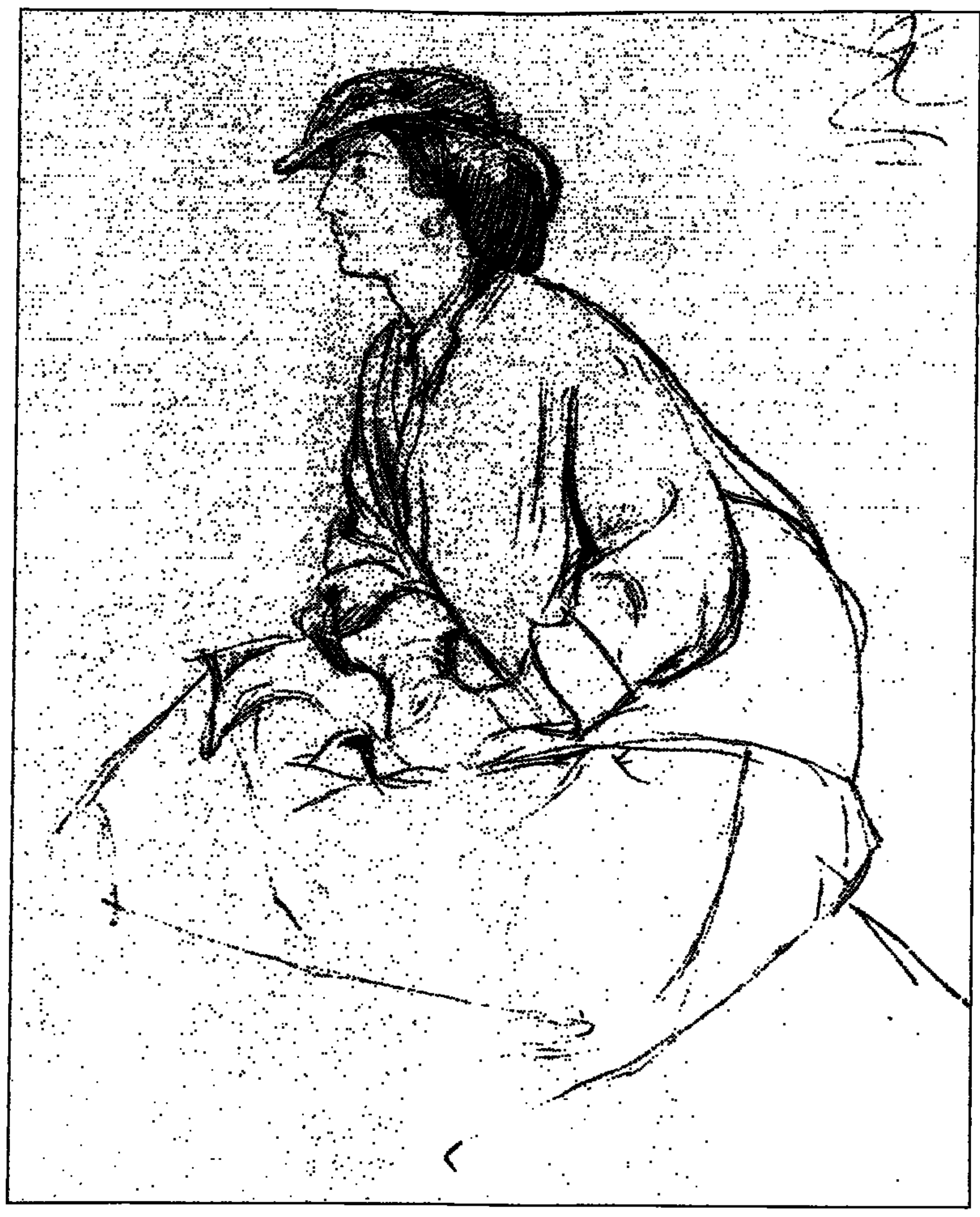
This last comment indicates something of Keene's paradoxical reputation. He has always been an artists' artist. Totally unpretentious, he never thought of himself as a great painter, a great draughtsman, a great anything. He seems to have been perfectly content sketching alongside artist-friends like Millais (whom he assumed to be much more important than himself), drawing from life at the Clipstone Artists' (later the Langham) Society and making the odd etching for the Junior Etching Club.

He was easy-going and eminently clubbable. He made his living, mostly, from working up jokes devised by his old friend Joseph Crawhall Sr, the eccentric Tyneside printer, illustrator and poet, into a visual form which was presentable in *Punch*. He also happens to have been a genius.

In 1934 Lionel Lindsey published his exquisitely produced book *Charles Keene The Artists' Artist*, in which he took the radical step of detaching Keene's *Punch* cartoons from their often rather laborious captions and letting them speak for themselves. It was a revelation for those few (the edition was only 130 copies) well enough placed to receive it. The revelation is repeated in the current exhibition — though here anyone who really wants to know what the drawing is "about" need only apply to the catalogue for enlightenment. The point is that even in the heftiest, most prosy jokes the pictures are not hefty, not prosy, not even in themselves particularly funny. If compared with the work of Leech, the drawings are a model of grace, delicacy and restraint: though humour is often clearly present, it is a very straight-faced sort of humour, sedulously avoiding caricature and always holding close to the reality of the situation, which, if properly understood, only makes the humour sharper.

Though Keene was self-taught (and perhaps too conscious of it), it is his technical skill which again and again takes the breath away. When he wants to, he can create a world in the absolute minimum of lines, as he does in landscape drawings such as "Sand Dunes near Southwold". But he was not a close asociate of the Pre-Raphaelites for nothing, and it is hard to imagine a more exquisitely detailed piece of close observation than "Garden Door of the White Cottage": a multiplicity of lines, but each given its own exact weight and value. His handful of etchings includes some of the supreme masterpieces of 19th-century print-making, and images such as "Lady of 1860 seated reading a book" or "Portrait of Mme Zambaco sketching" need fear no comparison with the finest Impressionist prints.

Perhaps needless to say, Keene did not consider himself a painter at all. Very few oil paintings by him have survived, but this show includes most of them. And even here there is one unequivocal masterpiece, the self-portrait of 1860 now in the Tate. The artist is working at his easel, in his shirt-sleeves, and wearing a curious red smoking cap jauntily on the side of his head. He looks at the spectator with an elusively quizzical expression, searching, almost challenging. A good fellow, clearly, who is also a firmly private man. It is a good combination for the artist's work, probably not so good for building the right sort of reputation. At least, a hundred years after the man's death it should be possible to correct any lingering misunderstandings, and finally accept Keene at his true worth.



Breathtaking skill: "Portrait of Mrs Edwards", late 1860s, by Charles Keene, on show at Christie's

The other show with which Christie's is beguiling the blessed interval between seasons of sales is much grander and less focused. **Patronage Preserved** concerns itself entirely with the vexed question of art and its proper context. Britain seems to have been preserving its stately homes, after and even during their period of private occupancy, longer and more systematically than any other country. But that has not always meant observing the integrity of the house and its original contents, let alone preserving intact the strata of purchases by successive owners. There may still be arguments about where the cut-off point should be, about whether a rigorous return to first principles is always the right course of action. But at least the idea is now firmly established that, within reason, houses should be kept complete with their original furniture, and hung with the pictures which were bought or sometimes commissioned with just one context in mind.

The sub-title of this exhibition is "Masterpieces Saved for Country Houses". It is not necessary even to quibble over how many of the works included can be considered in any real sense masterpieces in order to see that the concept of the masterpiece is often irrelevant. What is under discussion is much less likely to be the potential loss to the nation of some art-work of world importance than the desirability of keeping the same old but not specially distinguished chairs in the same old but not specially distinguished room because they reflect back on each other, they create an ambiance within which major works can really shine and minor works take on an added significance as part of a larger ensemble. History must after all be served, even if it is merely the history of taste in question.

Of course, showing a selection of works saved for country houses outside the country houses they were saved for is bound to be in a way self-defeating. But who is going to sniff at the opportunity to see the brilliant portraits of George Gordon, Lord Haddo and of Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh, among several fine examples of the art of Pompeo Batoni, Grand Tour artist (and therefore country house artist) par excellence? Nor are such admittedly minor but accomplished Old Masters as Bernardo Strozzi's "Christ and the Woman of Samaria" (from Kedleston), or oddities like Paul Delaroche's unexpectedly stark portrait of Guizot (from Haddo House) to be readily neglected. Ironically, though there is no doubt that they should be where they historically belong, they probably shine more brightly here.

Charles Keene of Punch. Patronage Preserved. Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1 (071-839 9060) Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat-Sun 2-5, *Keene* until Jan 27, *Patronage Preserved* until Jan 20.

RECORDS: ROCK

Soapbox jury

The Fall: 458489 B Sides (Beggars Banquet BEGA 116)
The Fall: 458489 A Sides (Beggars Banquet BEGA 111)

THERE has never been any danger of mistaking Mark E. Smith for a rock star. With his pasty complexion, ungainly deportment and lank schoolboy haircut, he has been one of the genre's most dependable subversives, in musical deed no less than in unfashionable gesture. Fourteen years since he convened The Fall in Manchester he remains a jarring presence on the sidelines of the main event, a born soapboxer ploughing on regardless of who might or might not be listening. Visionary or charlatan? Who knows?

There is certainly a hefty weight of evidence on which Smith's detractors can call: his appalling singing, which meanders across the beat and round the note in a tuneless, rock 'n' roll evocation of a bingo caller; his painfully abstruse lyrics; the besetting discordancy of his songs; and the eternally ramshackle playing of his band, no matter how many permutations of personnel drift through its ranks.

But counsel for the defence will be quick to point to the quirky originality of Smith's music; the niggling flashes of brilliance which abound amid the opaque tangle of butchered guitar riffs and clunky tom-tom tattoos; his refreshingly eccentric zest; and his brave multi-media excursions into theatre (with his play *Hey! Luciani*) and dance (his collaboration with Michael Clark on *I am Kurious Oranj*).

Smith's record company has wisely chosen the deadest week in the music industry's year to launch *458489 B Sides*, a compilation of B-sides taken from The Fall's singles released between 1984 and 1989. As its functional title and bold white cover design suggest, it is a companion to the *458489 A Sides* collection, released last September.

It may seem a remarkable conceit to foist a double album of such avowedly second-string material on the market, but The Fall is one group whose music really does warp the inferior/superior continuum. Naturally, *A Sides* features the band's best known recordings, including the two nearly-hits "There's a Ghost in my House" and Ray Davies's evergreen "Victoria". But *B Sides* is not short of inspiration or belt, its various odd-shaped patterns of sound knitting together like slabs of crazy paving.

No matter how solid the riff, The Fall's approach is strictly impressionistic and the band is at its best when conjuring the nightmarish atmosphere of "Sleep Debt Snatches" or the hardcore of "Pat-Trip Dispenser".

Too unrefined to lodge in the digestive tract of the mass market, The Fall's music nevertheless retains its timeless sense of weird, impenetrable drama, and whatever is said about Smith on judgement day he will doubtless emerge with his cranky integrity intact.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Exchange of gifts which enriches both sides

Joseph Connolly reviews an outstanding exhibition of English silver, which is only temporarily back in Britain, on loan from the Soviet Union

A truly dazzling collection of English Elizabethan and Stuart silver is the latest manifestation of our increasingly healthy cultural relations with Moscow. It has been lent by the Kremlin to Sotheby's of Bond Street, in whose galleries the exhibition opened this week.

Learning that Moscow's Armoury Museum holds the world's largest and most important collection of silver of this period will come as a shock to most visitors. The collection has around 200 magnificent pieces from England alone, and even a glance at the exhibits currently on show in London confirms the claim: each is unique in design, heroic in scale and in such gleamingly fine condition as to be cumulatively breathtaking.

According to Sotheby's, there is just one piece of the period in the Queen's collection that is comparable in terms of quality and rarity with any of the treasures presented here. And this is a mere tenth of the Armoury's collection.

Unlike many stupendous collections around the world, the Armoury's silver owes nothing to the fruits of booty and plunder: all of it came as a result of trading and the exchange of increasingly lavish gifts between Elizabeth I and her successors and the Tsars. This somewhat unlikely traffic reputedly has its roots in the failure in 1553 of the voyager Captain Richard Chancellor to discover a North-East passage to Cathay; he happened upon Muscovy instead.

During the 1550s the "Muscovy Company" was established in London, and mainly through this connection a vigorous trade rapidly developed. While England seemed more interested in acquiring necessities such as seal oil for lamp fuel and — surprisingly — tree trunks for the masts of ships, Russia's tastes tended to the luxurious: sugar, jewellery, clocks, furniture and silver.

The silver was always the most ornate and lavish available, which is why every piece here is so special. Although much of it was a "gift" from Elizabeth and later monarchs, the tacit understanding was that the merchant adventurers who actually conveyed the treasures to Russia should also have the privilege of paying for them.

This bizarre though perfectly credible arrangement ensured that the most extravagant pieces survived, for at home they tended to be regarded as slightly unfashionable. Had they remained in England they would surely have been melted down like so much elaborate early plate — either on grounds of current taste, or else in order to provide bullion to finance either a king's whim or perhaps a war.

Stupendous but not practical: the Leopard "water flaggon" made in 1600, sold by Charles I

The craftsmanship of the pieces on show is of the highest quality, displaying all of the silversmith's devices which here are exercised with a verve not readily associated with the period. Nevertheless, it seems clear that the fashioning of these marvellous artefacts was carried out simply in order to provide a reason for their eventual owners to amass vast quantities of extremely valuable metal.

Many of the huge and glittering silver-gilt objects are simply termed as a "water jug" or a "cup and cover", but these naïve appellations belie the fact that they each stand three feet tall and weigh up to five stone.

This is true of the stupendous snow leopard, made in about 1600 and sold by Charles I in 1626 when parliament refused him more money — whereupon it was exported to Russia. This noble and somewhat lascivious heraldic beast stands on a massive square base cast with bold lobed borders, and is draped with thick chains suspended from lion's head masks, though one feels sure that this barely moveable "water flaggon" never actually contained water.

The design of the exhibition is deliberately low-key, but that is not to say that one is straining amid twilight in order to see the exhibits: on the contrary, the cases and flooring are so pale grey as to be invisible, while every marvellous and shimmering silver-gilt treasure stands gleamingly proud against the crimson drop of the walls.

Lighting renders the objects splendid, but the brightness is carefully controlled, avoiding eye-fatigue. Rather, the cases are bathed in bright moonlight, at once stark and caressing. In its way, that is as impressive as the brilliance of the wonderful silver that each case contains.

At the end of the month, the collection returns to Russia; this fine exhibition therefore represents the first and last chance to see a unique and little-known aspect of England's cultural heritage. Such an opportunity should certainly should not be ignored.

English silver treasures from the Kremlin. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 until Jan 28. Admission free. Catalogue £5.

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BRIEFING

Harold in pieces

THE bid by Mark McCormack's International Management Group to take over Harold Holt Ltd, Britain's biggest concert agency, achieved partial success yesterday. One Holt director, Stephen Wright, will move to IMG with 29 performers. Two other Holt conductors, as yet unnamed, are understood to have moved to the powerful New York agency, Columbia Artists. But Holt will continue as an independent agency with increased emphasis on orchestral touring.

Bad to verse?

HAVING already impersonated Joe Orton, wayward dramatist, in the film of *Prick Up Your Ears*, actor Gary Oldman is now set to tackle Dylan Thomas, wayward poet. *Dylan*, a biographical feature, will be directed early next year by David Drury. The film-makers are pursuing authenticity by shooting in Thomas's beloved Laugharne, but there will need to be a Welsh-accent expert standing by: apart from the English Oldman, the cast includes the American Uma Thurman, as Thomas's wife Caitlin. At least Thurman knows something about literary spouses: she was Mrs Henry Miller in that steamy spectacle *Henry and June*.

Last chance . . .

Chagall to Kitaj, the main exhibition in the Barbican's Israeli festival, is more about the Jewish experience than what has been happening specifically in Israel. Subjects vary from the Judaic to the superficially Jewish. Until Sunday at the Barbican Art Gallery (071-588 9023).

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Early birth from the cocoon

DONALD COOPER

Susan Bullock as Butterfly and Arthur Davies as Pinkerton

OPERA

Madam Butterfly
Coliseum

THIS is one of those occasions when, glad as one was to be there, one comes away feeling it will be even more gladdening to be there at later performances. Susan Bullock's strong performance in the title role got better and better as the evening wore on, suggesting that she was not only overcoming early nerves (not helped by a wig with a mind of its own) but maybe even gaining the boosted confidence of someone surprising herself.

Her voice was, all through the performance, big and generous, her phrasing long. But it was only after the interval that she managed to maintain full tone right up to the very top, and only in the final scene that she began to display a wider range of colour and expression. Quite possibly this late intensifying was deliberate: after all, Butterfly has a lot to cope with in the half hour before the curtain, and simplicity in the first act could be justified by her being a girl of 15. Her music, however, is not that of a 15-year-old (this is one detail that jars in a forceful, emotionally direct production such as Graham Vick's is), and Bullock could allow herself more variety from the beginning.

But no doubt she does not now require any such advice: she will not need to be so cautious, having proved herself so well in the finale. She is not, it must be said, a natural actress, which means that her effectiveness depends very much on vocal power and control. Last night she gave the firmest indications that she has what it takes to project fierce pride, fragile hope and abundant despair through her singing, and to do so as decisively in a pianissimo as when she is using her formidable full volume.

The role of Pinkerton in this revived English National Opera production, which goes back to Puccini's abandoned versions in order to toughen the anti-imperialist point, is somewhat curtailed and distinctly unsympathetic. That is a problem for a singer of such appealing lyrical ardour as Arthur Davies: he acted the cynical pig excellently, but the sound, fresh and free, was of an altogether nicer fellow.

Alan Opie's Sharpless is a much more unified creation. Rumpled and careworn, and singing in a manner that is at once engagingly frank and consistently beautiful, he looked and sounded like a character out of Graham Greene: a man who acts always from the best possible motives, and thereby lacks the strength to deal with those who do not.

Louise Winter makes a heartening company debut as Suzuki: a younger maid than usual, quick and vigorous in her emotional responses, fighting tenaciously for Butterfly with great warmth and occasional hot rage in her singing.

The smaller roles, too, are well and characterfully sung, with Mark Richardson an imposing Bonze, John Kitchiner a suave, worldly Yamadori (though such a man would hardly be visiting this Butterfly's muddy hovel) and John Harris a Goro who pulls off the trick of making the ingratiating marriage-broker at once workable as a character and repugnant as a chauvinist stereotype. Not everything in the production achieves this double optic quite so skilfully, and the orchestra, under Michael Lloyd, needs more care and polish. The central performances, though, are well in place.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

CONCERT

Lott/Johnson
Wigmore Hall

THE first and possibly the most recherché tributes to Mozart to be offered in 1991 crept in coyly at the start of the Wigmore Hall's new year.

The reference was the Letter Song from Reynaldo Hahn's *Mozart*, a 1925 musical comedy, which certainly puts *Amadeus* in its place. The excuse was an evening devoted to songs sung by the great French singing actress, Yvonne Printemps; the reincarnator *par excellence*, Felicity Lott.

Mozart was quickly dispatched after reading a melting and apocryphal letter from his fiancée: Hahn's fanciful version of the life certainly makes Shaffer's read like the definitive biography. But this "Homage à Printemps" continues as wittily as its title promised. Those who lament the all-too-rare performances by the financially abridged Songmakers' Almanac may notice that its founder, compiler and pianist, Graham Johnson, is now disseminating his programming as well as his accompanying skills somewhat farther and wider these days.

This was a programme he had devised for Lott and himself to perform in Paris five years ago. Audiences at the Athenée must have been as delighted as the Wigmore's full house to bear arias from Offenbach *La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein* romping out from the shadows of Poulenc's mordantly archaic "A sa guitar", and subsiding into Messager's arch ditty, "J'ai deux amants".

Oscar Straus's "Je ne suis pas ce que l'on pense" spoke truly. Lott showed herself to be mistress of both visual and aural illusion, first changing from 1950s summer pink to widow's weeds, then letting her shawl slip down from her bare shoulders even as she savoured and stretched the malleable French vowels.

Printemps herself could scarcely have been more verdant. On seeing her in "L'amour masqué" Noël Coward wrote that "she annihilated all critical faculties". Lott and Johnson together bid fair to do pretty much the same by the end of the evening with their encore, an irresistible Coward duet, "I'll follow my secret heart". The first half, rather more serious stuff, with Gounod and Fauré pitted against Schumann and Wolf, came more slowly out of bud, but spring was there, too, sure enough in the vibrant movement and constantly changing colours of Lott's bright soprano.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRE

Green Fingers
King's Head, Islington

THIS has been brought to London by Northern Stage, a Newcastle-based company which, so the programme says, "is a unique concept in public-sector theatre provision and is charged with the task of providing high-quality theatre, utilising a diverse range of venues". Fortunately, its fare turns out to be more digestible than its syntax. The unique concept is utilising the tiny King's Head to suggest what it is like to be male, homosexual and living in Newcastle upon Tyne – and (by way of public-sector provision?) camouflaging its observation as an enjoyable courtroom drama.

The author is Michael Wilcox, whose earlier *Rents* involved roughish trade in gay Edinburgh. This time, his protagonist is a young corporation gardener accused of joining his lover, a professional burglar, in looting the house of one of Newcastle's leading sugar daddies. This provides the audience with plenty of lively cross-examination and some nice altercations between a genial judge and a snappish, mushroom-faced gentleman whom the programme calls "prosecuting council", as well as a fair amount of tension.

The result is not quite *Witness for the Prosecution*, though. Wilcox is more interested in exposing prejudice and exploitation than in the guilt or innocence of any defendant. This can take the rather crude form of a police witness gratuitously telling counsel, or council, "you can't trust queers, can you?". The play is, however, subtler when the victim of the burglary is helplessly keeping his secrets from prying legal eyes, or being blackmailed by an opportunist businessman into leaking the names of influential members of Newcastle's gay subworld.

Skilful defence counsel: Emily Richard in *Green Fingers*

The point seems to be that it is safe to be sexually straight, rich and very corrupt, less safe to be bent, rich and fairly corrupt, and most unsafe to be bent, poor and tempted to steal television sets. Wilcox adds the suggestion that homosexuality is more rife than theatre-going Geordies probably think. Defending counsel turns out to be a lesbian, her opponent is suspiciously hostile to what he calls "Sodom and Gomorrah", and even the judge has a gay son.

There is a surprise at the ending, but not one either connected with the trial or particularly plausible in itself. Before that, though, Wilcox manages to conceal any didactic or propagandist aim with consistent skill; and his writing is peppily served by Emily Richard, Ewen Bremner, Roy Hanlon, and indeed every other member of Andrew McKinnon's cast. Unique the production isn't; but a high-quality public-sector theatre provision concept, perhaps it is.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

AIR AMERICA (15): Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr. as maverick pilots mired in an off-shoot of the Vietnam war. Loud, crass, and demeaning; director, Roger Spottiswoode.
Odeon West End (071-930 5252/7615).

◆ ARACHNOPHOBIA (PG): Deadly spiders rampage through a cosy Californian community. Enjoyable thriller filled with humour and suspense tricks learned from Hitchcock. Jeff Daniels, John Goodman; director, Frank Marshall.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Chelsea (071-352 5096) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Leicester Square (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905).

◆DELTA FORCE 2 (18): Chuck Norris and a handful of marines destroy a Colombian drug cartel. Slick, mindless action fantasy; director, Aaron Norris.
Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631).

THE GARDEN (15): The Passion according to Derek Jarman — a powerful, elegiac tapestry of scenes and images woven round themes of death, religion and gay sex.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history. Writer-director, Michael Verhoeven.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

SECRET WEDDING: Part political parable, part off-beat romance between a freed prisoner and his former lover: an engrossing film from Argentinian director Alejandro Agresti.
ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

CURRENT

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG): *Crocodile Dundee* star Paul Hogan as a professional thief who believes he has returned from the dead to do good deeds. Feeble excursion into supernatural whimsy; director John Cornell, with Linda Kozlowski.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15): Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame.
Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ BLUE STEEL (18): Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow. Jamie Lee Curtis stars as a rookie cop embroiled with a psychopathic killer.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor; handsomely mounted, though the script sprawls and the director needs calming down. With Dennis Quaid.
Odeon Haymarket (071-839 7697).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson mooching around Venice, falling prey to the warped Christopher Walken. Laborious psychological drama.
Curzon Mayfair (071-499 3737).

FANTASIA (U): Disney's famous visualisation of popular concert classics ricochets between the charming, the clever, and the disastrously cute. With Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice; music played by Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ FLATLINERS (15): Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director, Joel Schumacher.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ GOODFELLAS (18): Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. With Robert De Niro.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HENRY AND JUNE (18): Anaïs Nin's passionate affair with Henry Miller in bohemian Paris recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HOME ALONE (PG): Plucky kid left alone at Christmas wards off bumbling burglars. Broad, machine-tooled American family fun from writer-producer John Hughes. A big US hit.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905)

◆ THE HOT SPOT (18): Raging sexual fires and duplicity in a lazy Texas town, deliciously evoked by director Dennis Hopper. Don Johnson as the drifter who unearths a hornet's nest.
Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies over one Christmas holiday. Witty dialogue, engaging young actors, elegant direction.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Lumière (071-836 0691)

◆ THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2 (U): A return visit to the land of Fantasia. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unlikeable child actor, Jonathan Brandis, spoils some of the fun.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ PRESUMED INNOCENT (15): Alan J. Pakula's riveting, thoughtful version of Scott Turow's bestseller, with Harrison Ford and Greta Scacchi.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Panton Street (071-930 0631) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci with John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324)

◆ TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG): Noisy, charmless feature-length advert for the new pop culture fad.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THREE SISTERS (12): Chekhov updated to an Italian university town in the 1980s. Sparks fly from all three actresses (Fanny Ardant, Greta Scacchi, Valeria Golino), yet the film stays in low gear. Director, Margarethe von Trotta.
Premiere (071-439 4470).

A WORLD WITHOUT PITY (15): Life and loves of a Parisian layabout; a promising debut by young French director Eric Rochant, with disarming performances (Hippolyte Girardot, Mireille Perrier).
Metro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ House full, returns only
☒ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☒ ADAM BEDE: Strongly acted and stirring version of George Eliot's novel, set in a long-vanished rural England.
Orange Tree, 45 Kew Road, Richmond (081-940 3633). Underground: Richmond. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 3hrs. Ends January 12.

☐ BOOKENDS: Disappointingly empty tale of two literary blokes: Michael Hordern and Dinsdale Landen try to find some content.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 2663). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends January 12.

☐ THE COUNTRY WIFE: Heavy-handed, old-fashioned production, though Fenella Fielding has her moments.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-410 0000). Underground: Blackfriars. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 3hrs.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☒ GASLIGHT: Annie Castledine's superbly atmospheric production of Patrick Hamilton's thriller. Performances excellent, the plot gripping.
Greenwich, Croom's Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). British Rail: Greenwich. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed-Fri, 3.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Ends February 2.

☐ GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Rather over the top but lots of laughs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Ends February 16.

☐ INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales; grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns sloshy thereafter.
Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☐ JUST SO: Just a so-so musical on the Kipling tales: songs pleasant, costumes charming, story oddly pale.
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Underground: Kilburn. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Ends January 12.

☐ MAN OF THE MOMENT: Ayckbourn in top form: good meets evil on the Costa del Crime. With Nigel Planer and Gareth Hunt.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3667). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Ends January 12.

☐ THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Spoof Gothic melodrama, ranging between the farcically funny and the feebly frantic.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends Saturday.

☐ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☐ PRIVATE LIVES: Keith Baxter, Joan Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Ends January 26.

☒ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 9pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

☐ RUSS ABBOT'S MADHOUSE: Affable Russ poorly served by stale material in old-fashioned show.
London Palladium, Argyle Street, W1 (071-437 7373). Underground: Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE: Alan Howard and Penny Downie in Bergman's two-hander: disappointingly slack after its transfer from Chichester.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 20mins. Ends January 26.

☐ SOPHIE!: Eve Ferret gamely attempts the raunchy style of Sophie Tucker in a musical bio, subtitled "The Last of the Red Hot Mamas", that seldom reaches red heat.
New End Theatre, New End, NW3 (071-794 0022). Underground: Hampstead. Tues-Sun, 8pm, mat Sun, 4.30pm. Running time: 2hrs. Extended to January 13.

☒ THREE SISTERS: Three Redgraves in admirable if over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older girls.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 3hrs.

☐ TIME AND THE CONWAYS: Joan Plowright and lots of other Oliviers in Priestley's dullish play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 35mins. Ends February 16.

☒ WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, assault and bisexual junketing preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but well worth seeing.
Hampstead, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Swiss Cottage. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs. Extended to January 16.

■ THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Alan Bennett's enchanting new version, with jolly sets popping up on the revolve, Griff Rhys Jones, Richard Briers and all.
National (Olivier), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground: Waterloo. Tonight, tomorrow, Mon, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ■ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☒ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ☐ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ■ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Hidden Laughter: Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . . . ☒ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☒ *Return to the Forbidden Planet*: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ☒ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☒ The Women in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238) .

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

ALL THINGS NICE: The Royal Court begins its 1991 season with a play by Glaswegian Sharman Macdonald – most well known for her play *When I was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout* which won her a 1984 Evening Standard award for most promising playwright. *All Things Nice* follows the lives of three generations of Glaswegian women and is directed by Max Stafford-Clark. Previews begin tonight until next Wednesday.
Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 4705), 8pm.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST: After a highly successful 11-week UK tour, Dario Fo's farce, in a new English version by Alan Cumming and Tim Supple, arrives in London. The new interpretation is an up-to-date one with modern characters and setting; Alan Cumming plays The Madman.
National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252), 7.30pm.

BOOK SIGNING: P.D. James, who was recently awarded a peerage in the New Year's Honours List for her contribution to crime fiction, will be signing copies of her bestselling book *Devices and Desires* today.
Selfridges Book Department, Oxford Street, London W1 (071-629 1234), 1-2pm.

THE LOVE FOR THREE ORANGES: Tim Hopkins' revival of Richard Jones's production is again a triumph for English National Opera. Under the conducting of Martin André the sound and stage presence thrillingly evoke the manic elements of Prokoviev's opera. A fine cast includes Alan Woodrow, Andrew Shore and Paul Harrhy.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7.30pm.

ACADEMIC PLEASURES: The new drawings gallery at the Courtauld Institute is inaugurated with a show of 60 Old Master drawings lent by the Accademia in Venice. Fascinating on their own account and neatly complementary to the Institute's paintings.
Courtauld Institute Galleries, Somerset House, The Strand, London WC2 (071-873 2526), until January 13.

AFTER KOKOSCHKA: Chaim Sarachi (1902-1974) was a friend and admirer of Kokoschka while in England, and his way of drawing portraits and still-lifes is almost indistinguishable from the master's, sometimes as good, and much more attainable.
Pride Gallery, Radley Mews, London W8 (071-938 4374), until January 26.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

JESSICA

(c) Shylock's daughter. She denies her religion, elopes with a Christian, and nicks a bag of jewels. In spite of her cracking love poetry, she is as ruthless as any Christian.

BOLINGBROKE

(a) Roger. The necromancer who conjures up the fake spirit that traps Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester in *Henry VI Part Two*. Of all the frauds, he has the best lines: "Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night. . ."

CALPURNIA

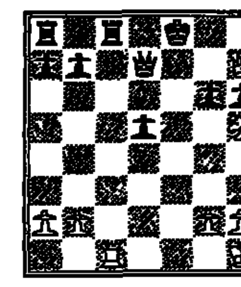
(b) Caesar's last wife, whose warnings of the Ides he was inclined to listen to. She has the terrific line: "The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes." Caesar: "Cowards die many times before their deaths,/The valiant never taste of death but once."

PHILOSTRATE

(c) Theseus' master of revels in the *Dream*, a court official who arranges the entertainment: "A play there is, my lord, some ten words long/Which, when I saw rehears'd, I must confess,/Made mine eyes water."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Steinitz – Bardeleben, Hastings Tournament of 1895. How can White conclude his fine attack? Solution in tomorrow's *Times*.

Top Grandmasters at this year's Hastings Premier include Speelman, Larsen, Chandler and Sax (Information: 0424 439222).

Yesterday's solution:
(a) 2 Qxd7+
(b) 2 Rxc8+ with an extra piece
(c) 2 Nh7+! Kxg7 3 Qxd7+

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 071 836 3161 cc 071 240 5258 cc 1st call 071 240 7200 (24hr/7 day) 071 379 4444 ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 7.30 LOVE FOR 3 ORANGES Tomor 7.30 MADAM BUTTERFLY

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 071 928 8800 (INC CC) ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET Peter Schaufuss' production of THE NUTCRACKER Today Mat 2.30 [illegible] Ton't 7.30 [illegible] (No perfs Suns)

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911. Standby info 836 6903. S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day THE ROYAL OPERA Ton't 7.00 Die Fledermaus THE ROYAL BALLET Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 The Nutcracker

SADLER'S WELLS 071 278 8916 First Call 24hrs 7 days 240 7200 LAST 3 PERFS Ton't at 7.30. Tomor at 2.30 & 7.30 LONDON CITY BALLET Cinderella

THEATRES

APOLLO 071-437 2663 cc 379 4444 & 071-793 1000 cc (bkg fee) 071-240 7200 Mon-Fri 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 "GLORIOUSLY FUNNY" Ind on Sun MICHAEL HORDERN DINSDALE LANDEN "TWO JEWEL-LIKE PERFORMANCES" S.Times BOOKENDS A COMEDY BY KEITH WATERHOUSE Directed by NED SHERRIN "FULL OF GOOD JOKES" Kaleidoscope "DELIGHTFUL STUFF" Daily Mail LAST TWO WEEKS Ends Jan 12

ALBERY BO & cc (no fee) 867 1115 cc (no fee)867 1111/379 4444 bkg fee 793 1000/497 9977 BEST MUSICAL SWET Award 1983 WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS with STEPHANIE LAWRENCE "ASTONISHING...A Milestone in British Musicals" S Exp ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 071 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Groups 828 6188 cc Ticketmaster 24hr 379 4444 1st Call 240 7200 K Prowse 071 793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0 SEVENTH HIT YEAR STARLIGHT EXPRESS Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE Directed by TREVOR NUNN SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK OAP's £5 on Tues Mats NOW BOOKING TO 28 SEPT '91

ADELPHI 071 836 7611 CC 071 793 1000/071 379 4444 First Call 24hr cc 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) Grps 071 930 6123 NOW BOOKING TO JULY 91 ME AND MY GIRL THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00 "THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" Sunday Express

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404 (cc 071 793 1000 no fee) & 24hr cc 836 2428/379 4444 (bkg fee) JOAN COLLINS KEITH BAXTER in NOEL COWARD'S PRIVATE LIVES Evgs 8.0 Wed 3.0 Sat 5.0 & 8.30 SEASON EXTENDED TO JAN 26

AMBASSADORS 071 836 6111/2 cc 836 1171/ (24h) 497 9977 cc (bkg fee) 379 4444/ 071 793 1000 Groups 836 1171 Eves 8 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 "A TIDAL WAVE OF FUN..." D Mail "Hilarious" Gdn "Fall About Laughing" D. Mirror Nicholas Grace Edward Hibbert THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP MUST CLOSE TODAY

CAMBRIDGE 071-379 5299 CC 071 379 4444 (24hr no Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977(24hr)/071 793 1000 (B. Fees) Grps 071 240 7941 "Go in and Rock—" The Times BEST MUSICAL Olivier Awards 1990 RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET "The brashest, boldest musical" C Limits "Breathless and bristling" D Mir Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5 & 8.30 All seats £8.50 Fri 5pm only (Except today) "Deliriously addictive" D Tel "Awesome" What's On

COMEDY B.O 071 867 1045/1111cc Also CC (no bkg fee) 071 379 4444/497 9977/ 793 1000 THE PETER HALL COMPANY WARREN MITCHELL CHERIE LUNGHI The HOMECOMING by HAROLD PINTER Directed by Peter Hall NOW PREVIEWING Eves 8.00 (Jan 10 7.00) Mats Wed 3.00, Sat 5.00

DOMINION 071 580 8845 cc 071 580 9562 Opens Feb 27th Don't Miss The Real Musical 42ND STREET Returns to the West End For 64 Perfs Book Now

DOMINION BO 071 580 9562/ 8845 CC 071 379 4444 071 497 9977 (24 hr 7 days) 071 793 1000 bkg fee Gps 071 240 7941 BREAD Tue-Sat 2.30 & 7.30 Mon 2.30. Sun 3.30

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071 379 4444/240 7200 Grps 831 8626 MISS SAIGON "MUSICALS COME AND GO THIS ONE WILL STAY" S Tms Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Check daily for returns. A few balcony seats usually available. Latecomers not admitted until the interval. A FEW GOOD SEATS STILL AVAIL. FOR MIDWEEK MATS. APPLY TO BOX OFFICE. POSTAL BKGS NOW BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL 30 JUNE '91

DUCHESS 071 836 8243 (cc no bkg fee 379 4444/240 7200/ 071 793 1000) Groups 930 6123 Theatre of Comedy Company HENRY McGEE RALPH BATES WILLIAM LUCAS in RAY COONEY'S "OUTRAGEOUSLY FUNNY" D.Tel RUN FOR YOUR WIFE! LONDONS LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY Evenings 8.0 Mat Thurs 2.30 Saturdays 5.30 & 8.30

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 071 836 2238 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977/071 793 1000 Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt 'A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER' Guardian 'MASTERLY' Exp 'CHILLING' Ind "Take Tranquillisers" T Out "HOORAY FOR HORROR" D Mail NOW BOOKING TO MAY '91

FORTUNE XMAS MATS Last 2 Days. Today 2 pm only. Tomorrow 1.30 pm only THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP Musical play ideal 3-9 yr olds £6.60-£8.50 Bk on 071 836 2238

GLOBE THEATRE BO (CC) 071-437 3667 BEST COMEDY OF THE YEAR Evening Standard Drama Award NIGEL PLANER GARETH HUNT in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S MAN OF THE MOMENT Evgs 7.45, Wed 3 Sats 5 & 8.30 LAST TWO WEEKS

GREENWICH THEATRE 081 858 7755 Evgs 7.45, Sat Mats 2.30 Patrick Hamiltons' Victorian Thriller GASLIGHT "Packed With Melodrama... A Good Scary Evening" Times.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO 071 930 8800 or 24hr hotline 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee) JOHN GORDON-SINCLAIR & JIM CARTER are "GASPING" by BEN ELTON Directed by Bob Spiers "Breathtakingly Funny" I on Sun "Sublime" FT MON - THURS EVES 8pm FRI EVE 8.30 pm SAT 5pm & 8.30pm Box Office Now Open Must close 16th Feb 1991

HAYMARKET theatre royal B.O. 071 930 8800 or 24hr Hotline 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee) From 20th FEB DAWN FRENCH IN SILLY COW BY BEN ELTON MON-FRI EVES 8.00 pm. SAT EVE 8.45 pm MATS WED 3pm SAT 6.00 pm NOW BOOKING

HER MAJESTY'S Enquiries 0836 430921 071 839 2244 24hr CC 379 4444(bkg fee) 497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA DAVE WILLETTS JILL WASHINGTON MICHAEL CORMICK Iren Bartok plays Christine at certain performances Directed by HAROLD PRINCE Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 SOLD OUT UNTIL SEPT 28 1991 40-60 RETURNS SOLD EACH PERF: QUEUE DAILY

LONDON PALLADIUM BO & CC 071 437 7373 071 437 2055 CC 24hrs 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) 071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 071 240 7941 RUSS ABBOT'S PALLADIUM MAD HOUSE The New All laughter Spectacular with Bella Emberg, Lisa Maxwell and Company Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30. Until Jan 5 twice daily 2.30 & 7.30 FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464) Vanessa Ford's THE HORSE AND HIS BOY by C. S. Lewis 2 & 6.30pm. STUDIO 081 741 8701 THIRTYSOMEHOW 7.45pm plus THE HANGOVER SHOW 9.15pm ENDS TOMORR!

LYRIC, Shafts Ave 071 437 3686 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 379 4444 "SONG & DANCE DYNAMITE" Daily Mail FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE "A JOYOUS WALLOPING HIT" Guardian "The joint never stops jumpin'" Time Out (Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat at 6.00 & 8.45)

OLD VIC Box Office & CC 071 928 7616 CC (bkg fee) 240 7200/379 4444/793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Mon-Fri 7.30, Wed mat 2.30. Sat 4.00 & 7.45 JOAN PLOWRIGHT "A great actress at the very peak of her powers" Sun Exp in TIME & THE CONWAYS Directed by Richard Olivier "DESERVES TO BE A SELL-OUT" Daily Express

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252; Grps 071 620 0741 24 hr cc bkg fee: 071 497 9977 OLIVIER Ton't 7.15 Tomor 2.15 & 7.15 THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Grahame adapted by Bennett (SOLD OUT RETURNS ONLY) LYTTLETON Tomor 7.00 RICHARD III Shakespeare COTTESLOE Ton't 7.30 Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST Fo

PALACE THEATRE 071 434 0909 24hrs cc 379 4444 (bkg fee) 497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 Groups 494 1671 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES THE MUSICAL SENSATION Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval NOW BOOKING THRU SEPT 91 APPLY TO BOX OFFICE DAILY FOR RETURNS

PHOENIX BO 071 867 1044 cc (no bkg fee) 867 1111/379 4444 cc (bkg fee) 071 793 1000/071 497 9977 GRPS 240 7941 BEST MUSICAL 1990 EVENING STD AWARDS JULIA McKENZIE IMELDA STAUNTON PATSY ROWLANDS CLIVE CARTER & NICHOLAS PARSONS in The Sondheim/Lapine Musical INTO THE WOODS "A SMASH HIT-GET FOR TICKETS" People Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30

PLAYHOUSE BO & cc 071 839 4401 cc First Call 24hr 836 3464 (no bkg fee) Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30 CAPTAIN BEAKY & HIS BAND in HEAVEN'S UP "FUNNY & TOUCHING" FT "HEAVENLY FUN" People Starring PATRICK CARGILL JACK WILD MIKE BERRY SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRICES CHILD £5 ADULTS FROM £10 WINE & DINE AT SHAWS in the MI GROUP PLAYHOUSE

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 First Call 24 hr 836 3464 Ticketmaster 379 4444 K Prowse 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 240 7941/930 6123 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 CHILDREN OF EDEN THE NEW MUSICAL by John Caird Stephen Schwartz NOW PREVIEWING OPENS 8 JANUARY AT 7PM

SADLER'S WELLS 071 278 8916 (no bkg fee) SUSAN HAMPSHIRE KOSHIRO MATSUMOTO IX in Rodgers & Hammerstein's THE KING AND I Perfs from 6 Feb. Eves 7.30. Wed & Sat mats 2.30. 12 Feb at 7pm. GROUP SALES 071 930 6125 cc

PRINCE OF WALES BO 071 839 5972 CC First Call 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 (bkg fee) TM 24hr 379 6131 (bkg fee) 793 1000 Grps 930 6123 ASPECTS OF LOVE "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S BEST" D.Tel Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHARLES HART Directed by TREVOR NUNN Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 Queue daily for returns. Strictly no admittance for latecomers NOW BOOKING TO OCTOBER '91 100 SEATS AVAIL FOR WED MAT ON THE DAY AT THE B. OFFICE

QUEENS Shaftesbury Ave 071 734 1166 cc 071 793 1000 071 497 9977 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) VANESSA REDGRAVE LYNN REDGRAVE JEMMA REDGRAVE and STUART WILSON THREE SISTERS "Moving, Funny, Unbearably Sad" Obs "Breathtaking" D.Mail Directed by ROBERT STURUA Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 EXTRA MAT TODAY

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY STRATFORD UPON AVON (0789 295623 cc Mon - Sat 9am - 8pm) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST Ton't 7.30 THE SWAN: TWO SHAKESPEAREAN ACTORS Ton't 7.30 Meal/Ticket/Hotel package 0789 414999. RSC's 24hr cc box office (bkg fee) 071 497 9977.

SHAFTESBURY BO. 071 379 5399 (cc No Bkg Fee 071 379 4444/071-793 1000) (071-497 9977 Bkg Fee) Grps 930 6123 Theatre of Comedy Company DONALD SINDEN MICHAEL WILLIAMS WANDA VENTHAM SANDRA DICKINSON & BRIAN MURPHY "A MASTERLY TEAM" D Exp. in RAY COONEY'S "HUGELY FUNNY" D. Tel OUT OF ORDER "A TRIUMPH" F.Times Evgs 8.0 Mat Wed 2.30 Saturdays 5.30 & 8.30

ST MARTINS 071-836 1443. Special CC No. 379 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0 39TH YEAR OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND 071 240 0300 cc 071 379 4444 071 793 1000 (No Bkg fee) 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123. MARTI CAINE DEREK GRIFFITHS & Louise English in SNOW WHITE and the SEVEN DWARFS Twice daily 2.30 & 7.30 (except certain perfs.) Suns Jan 13 & 20 at 4.00 UNTIL JAN 20

STRAND BO & CC 071 240 0300 CC (Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977 DAVE ALLEN 12 FEB - 23 MARCH ONLY

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071 836 9987 cc 071 793 1000 (no fee) & 24 hr cc 836 2428 / 379 4444 (bkg fee) Mon-Fri Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.0 Sats 5.0 & 8.30 HANNAH GORDON PETER BARKWORTH KEVIN McNALLY in HIDDEN LAUGHTER "SIMON GRAY'S BEST PLAY FOR YEARS" D Telegraph "SUPERBLY WRITTEN" STimes

VICTORIA PALACE 071-834 1317 CC 071-379 4444/240 7200/071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123 BUDDY "It's Buddy Brilliant" Sun "Sheer unadulterated fun ... I love this show" Sun Exp BUDDY NOW IN IT'S 2ND SENSATIONAL YEAR "Wonderful Stuff" Sun Tel. "I Loved It" Fin Times BUDDY The Buddy Holly Story Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30. ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAYS 5.30 PERF NOW BOOKING TO MAY 1991

WHITEHALL BO & cc (no fee) 867 1119 cc 867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 497 9977/793 1000 ALAN AYCKBOURN'S ACHINGLY FUNNY Tms ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR "leaves the viewer weak with laughter and admiration" D Tel "I CHALLENGE ANYONE NOT TO LAUGH OUT LOUD".Today Eves 8 Mats Thurs 3 Sat at 4.30

WYNDHAMS 071-867 1116 CC 071 379 4444/793 1000 (No Fees) & 24 hr CC 836 2428 (Bkg Fee) SHEILA GISH CLIVE FRANCIS JOSEPH MAHER in WHAT THE BUTLER SAW by JOE ORTON "RIOTOUSLY FUNNY" D. Tel Opens 22 Jan. Mon - Thur at 8.00 Fri & Sats at 6.00 & 8.00

WYNDHAMS 071-867 1116 cc 071 867 1111/071 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 071 497 9977/ 071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Evgs 8pm Mats: Thurs 3 Sat 4 ALAN HOWARD PENNY DOWNIE in INGMAR BERGMAN'S SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE Closes Sat 19 Jan LAST THREE WEEKS

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St 071 465 8865 Christopher Walken, Rupert Everett Natasha Richardson, Helen Mirren in THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18) Progs at 2.00 (not Sun) 4.10, 6.20, 8.40

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St. off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 Michel Piccoli Miou Miou in Louis Malle's MILOU IN MAY (15) "Subtle, resonant, funny and delightful" FT Progs at 2.00 (not Sun) 4.10 6.20 8.40

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury W1 071 439 4805 Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta in Martin Scorsese's GOODFELLAS (18) Progs at 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. Last Weeks

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هكذا من الإصل

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando
8.50 The New Yogi Bear Show (r)
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Popeye And Son (r)
9.30 Yanomami – The Dying Tribe. A special edition of *Newsround* that tells of the plight of a tribe of Amazonian Indians who have lived peacefully in the jungle for more than 10,000 years. Driven by a lust for gold, an army of miners has invaded their territory, bringing with it diseases that are wiping out the tribe
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 Rupert. Ray Brooks narrates the animated stories of the colourful bear (r)
10.35 Paddles Up. The final of the international canoeing competition
11.00 News, regional news and weather
11.05 Film: The Importance of Being Earnest (1952). Oscar Wilde's play becomes a wonderful comic vehicle for a perfectly-orchestrated cast of Michael Redgrave, Michael Denison, Dorothy Tutin, Joan Greenwood, with Edith Evans as the definitive Lady Bracknell and Margaret Rutherford as Miss Prism. Directed by Anthony Asquith 12.35 Cartoons 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)
1.50 Film: Hotel (1967). Spirited adaptation of Arthur Hailey's blockbuster with Rod Taylor as the manager of the St Gregory in New Orleans trying to keep his head when all about him are losing theirs in a sea of blackmail, robbery, racism and romance. The cast includes Karl Malden, Kevin McCarthy, Merle Oberon and Richard Conte. Directed by Richard Quine
3.50 Corners. An informative series for children 4.05 Jackanory. *Surprises* is read by Victoria Wood and Danny John Jules 4.20 Fantastic Max (r) 4.30 Eye Spy. Julian Parkin hosts a new game show based on the world of intrigue and espionage, with four young contestants competing to become the master spy of today's contest
4.55 Newsround 5.05 The Watch House. Conclusion of the three part children's ghost story by Robert Westall (r)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Chris Lowe. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan with comedienne Helen Lederer, four members of *The Archers* cast and, singing live for once, Milli Vanilli
7.35 Film: Summer Rental (1985) starring John Candy, Richard Crenna and Rip Torn. Jack Chester (Candy) needs a break. He begins to feel his job as an air traffic controller is getting to him when he starts shouting landing instructions to a fly. So with his wife, three children and family dog, he sets off for a few days of well deserved rest and relaxation in Florida. The family are blissfully unaware of the disasters that await them. Director Carl Reiner, who was responsible for Steve Martin's early films, turns in an enjoyable lightweight comedy, but fans of big John Candy will find that the film fails to exploit his rich comic talent. (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather

Witness to a murder: Jessica Lundy as Nicki Page (9.30pm)

9.30 Over My Dead Body. A pilot episode for a new murder-mystery series begining next week. Edward Woodward is Max Beckett, a retired Scotland Yard inspector turned crime novelist. He is tracked down by Nicki Page (Jessica Lundy), a young obituary writer for the San Francisco press who has witnessed a murder. As there are no other witnesses and no body, the police are reluctant to believe her. Although Max has other things on his mind, such as his impending divorce and an irate publisher, Nicki's persistence wins him over and he regains his taste for mystery solving. (Ceefax)
11.00 Film: The Gladiator (1986). Ken Wahl, Nancy Allen and Robert Culp star in this below par made-for-television movie set in a Los Angeles in the grip of "The Skull", a homicidal maniac who likes nothing better than killing people with his "Death Car". Although heavily influenced by the *Mad Max* films this is nowhere near as innovative or entertaining. Directed by Able Ferera
12.35am Weather

BBC 2

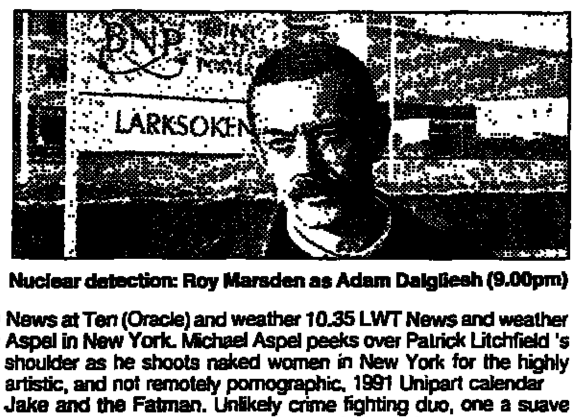
8.00 News
8.15 English Towns. Alec Clifton-Taylor visits Beverley in North Humberside (r). (Ceefax)
9.00 Film: Tarzan and the Mermaids (1948, b/w). Tarzan (Johnny Weissmuller) lands an unexpected catch while out fishing – a beautiful mermaid-like girl (Linda Christian) who is fleeing her village. Directed by Robert Florey
10.05 Master Craftsmen. A profile of Alan Hamshere, a clock maker working in a remote Fife farmhouse (r) 10.20 How Are the Kids? Last in the series about child exploitation all over the world
10.30 The Unanswered Question: Leonard Bernstein at Harvard. In his final lecture Bernstein concentrates on Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* and conducts a complete performance of the work (r) 1.45 The Brollys. Cartoon adventure (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by Look, Stranger: What Does the Wind Do When It Isn't Blowing? John Barrett, former director of the Pembrokeshire Countryside Unit, takes a walk around this rugged area of west Wales (r) 2.30 Bellamy on the Heathland. David Bellamy trails through bogs and other wetlands in search of carnivorous plants and dragonflies
3.00 News and weather followed by A View from the Bridge. A *40 Minutes* film about Colin Graver, a 17-year-old from County Durham who ran away from home and whose body was later recovered from the Thames (r). (Ceefax)
3.40 Holiday Outings. A report from Anne Gregg on a two-centre holiday in Tunisia 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Cheetah's Grandfather. The story of 73-year-old Desmond Farraday who set up a cheetah sanctuary at his home in the Transvaal (r) 4.15 Holiday Outings to Center Parc, the resort with tropical temperatures at Elveden Forest in Suffolk (r)
4.20 Film: Pillow Talk (1959). First and arguably the best of the series of romantic comedies featuring the team of Doris Day, as usual playing hard to get, and Rock Hudson. Directed by Michael Gordon
6.00 Film: Battlestar Galactica (1978). *Star Wars* rip-off that heralded the successful television series, starring Lorne Greene and Richard L. Hatch. Directed by Richard A. Colla
8.00 Cricket: Third Test. Richie Benaud with highlights of the first day's play in the game at Sydney between Australia and England

House extension: garden designer David Stevens (8.30pm)

8.30 Gardens by Design: The Extra Room.
● CHOICE: David Stevens presents a six-part series which sets out to show how the garden can be treated as an extra room of the house, shaped and furnished to the owner's needs. The emphasis is less on digging and planting and reeling off Latin names than in seeing the plot as a whole. A professional garden designer who has won eight gold medals at Chelsea, Stevens obviously knows his stuff. Perhaps he knows it too well, because he tends to race through his script as if he had a train to catch. The programme takes a long time over generalities before homing in on a specific project – the redesign of a small suburban garden in London. This will be a running feature of the series and could be its most useful item, although viewers thinking of reshaping their own gardens may blench at a likely bill of up to £10,000. (Ceefax)
9.00 Monty Python's Flying Circus. More lunacy with John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle, Michael Palin and Terry Jones (r). (Ceefax)
9.30 The Middle of Life: Hans Werner at 60. As a curtain-raiser to the BBC festival of the music of Hans Werner Henze at the Barbican, another chance to see Simon Rattle in conversation with the composer on his sixtieth birthday in 1986 (r)
10.25 A Life in Pieces. In an interview with Ludovic Kennedy, Sir Arthur Streeb-Greebling (Peter Cook) chooses his tenth Christmas gift
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman.
11.15 Darts. The Embassy world professional championship from the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green 12.15 Weather
12.20am Film: Travels with My Aunt (1972). Stodgy adaptation of Graham Greene's novel about a retired bank manager on a world trip with an eccentric aunt, enlivened by a splendid performance by Maggie Smith. With Alec McCowen. Directed by George Cukor. Ends at 2.10

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Pepe Le Pew. Cartoon (r) 9.35 Thames News and weather
9.40 Film: Dogtanian – The Movie (1989). Cartoon version of *the Three Musketeers* directed by Luis Ballester
11.25 The Magic of David Copperfield. Illusionist David Copperfield stages an escape from the top security prison, Alcatraz (r)
12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One and weather 1.20 Disney Cartoon (r)
1.30 Film: The Island at the Top of the World (1974). The title promises more than the film delivers, although the children might enjoy it. Donald Sinden and David Hartman go off on an expedition to the Arctic in search of Sinden's missing son and discover a lost Viking civilisation. Directed by Robert Stevenson
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News 3.25 The Young Doctors
3.55 Utterly Brilliant. Timmy Mallett dresses up in top hat and tails for a dance routine with ace dancer Rosemarie Ford 4.15 Scooby Doo. The first of a new cartoon series 4.40 Fun House. Slapstick comedy
5.10 Home and Away (r)
5.40 News. (Oracle) and weather
5.55 The Day follows a crucial 24 hours in the life of an ordinary member of the public
6.00 6 O'Clock Live presented by Frank Bough
7.00 The 64,000 Dollar Question. Quiz show with Bob Monkhouse.
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)
8.00 Watching. Comedy series about an ill-matched couple starring Emma Wray, Paul Brown and Liza Tarbuck. (Oracle)
8.30 Surgical Spirit.
● CHOICE: Peter Learmouth's hospital comedy is back for a third series, with Nichola McAuliffe as the imperious surgeon more than holding her own in a man's world. Like many an American sitcom the show's assets are its speed and the quality of its wisecracks, while McAuliffe is a fine comedy actress. Tonight's episode features her teenage son who gets a holiday job in the hospital and thus picks up the jokes and gossip going on behind his mother's back. The trading of invective and insult helps to compensate for thinnish plotting but the essence of a sitcom is that nothing really changes. Just as in the very first episode, there is the hint of romance between the widowed McAuliffe and her put-upon colleague, Dr Haslam (Duncan Preston) and the trio of supporting surgeons are still on hand to provide their comic Greek chorus. (Oracle)
9.00 P.D. James: Devices and Desires.
● CHOICE: In the week that the crime writer P.D. James was made a life peer comes another splendid adaptation of her work, fully maintaining the quality of the previous five. The opening sequence includes the image of a footprint in the sand but devotees of James, whether in print or on screen, will know that such cliché clues form little part of her stories. Her specialities are character and atmosphere and both are strongly represented in this six-parter set in East Anglia. There are a couple of murders in tonight's opening episode but it is far more concerned with establishing the Suffolk landscape, the debate about the local nuclear power station and the complex web of relationships from which crime will flow. Roy Marsden's dry and aloof detective, Adam Dalgliesh, is a nice foil to the usual impeccable cast, which includes Susannah York, James Faulkner and Gemma Jones. (Oracle)



Nuclear detection: Roy Marsden as Adam Dalgliesh (9.00pm)

10.00 News at Ten (Oracle) and weather 10.35 LWT News and weather
10.40 Aspel in New York. Michael Aspel peeks over Patrick Litchfield 's shoulder as he shoots naked women in New York for the highly artistic, and not remotely pornographic, 1991 Unipart calendar
11.40 Jake and the Fatman. Unlikely crime fighting duo, one a suave district attorney, the other an overweight investigator
12.40am The Winds Of War part one. Robert Mitchum, Ali McGraw and Jan Michael-Vincent star in this second world war drama which follows the fortunes of the American Henry family after the attack on Pearl Harbor brings the United States into the conflict (r)
2.35 CinemAttractions. The latest box office news from America
3.05 American College Football. Action from the Copper Bowl
4.30 Ski World. How, where and what to wear guide
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Scenes of the natural world accompanied by soothing music
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
10.25 Batman and Robin (b/w). Episode 11
10.45 The Adventures of TinTin. Part seven of *The Crab with the Golden Claws*
11.00 Things To Come (r)
11.30 Tony Jacklin's Pro Celebrity Golf Challenge. Nigel Mansell and Sam Torrance against Peter Cook and Ronan Rafferty
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Yachting: Whitbread Round the World Race. Further highlights
2.00 Pet World. Dublin vet John Wilson assesses the value of pet therapy and advises on keeping a small snake (r)
2.30 Film: The Immortal Sergeant (1943, b/w). Inspirational second world war drama set in north Africa with Henry Fonda as a diffident Canadian corporal who leads an assault on the Germans in the Libyan desert. With Thomas Mitchell and Maureen O'Hara. Directed by John M. Stahl
4.10 The Three Stooges in *Phoney Express* (1943, b/w). Directed by Del Lord
4.30 Countdown. The first semi-final in the Championship of Champions competition hosted by Richard Whiteley
5.00 Not on Sunday. Religious affairs magazine
5.30 American Football: Red 42. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imlach with news of the NFL and interviews with the top stars
6.00 Happy Days. More laughs from high school life in Fifties America
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are disc jockey Andy Kershaw and, providing the music, Soho
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext)
7.50 First Reaction. Well-known figures from the worlds of art and entertainment talk about current issues. Followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. Suburban soap set on Merseyside. (Teletext)
8.30 Travelog. New series of the programme for the independent traveller presented by Robert Elms. Along with special reports given by well-known writers and travellers, there is advice and hints on how to get the most out of travel. This week Simon Hoggart of the *Observer* reports from Savannah, Georgia
9.00 Cheers: Love Is a Really, Really, Perfectly OK Thing.
● CHOICE: The Boston bar is open and ready to take the orders as the long-running American import opens its ninth series. In the United States *Cheers* was a slow starter and ended its first season 74th in the audience ratings. Surviving the axe, it has since regularly been in the top three programmes and won a clutch of Emmys. The formula of an assorted group of characters exchanging wisecracks over a bar counter is, like most of the best comedy ideas, brilliantly simple. But it is not just an excuse to fire off a volley of gags. The quality of *Cheers* lies in creating humour from character so that jokes enrich rather than decorate. This is amply demonstrated tonight as, picking up from the last series, the storyline has Robin (Roger Rees) surrendering to the police and Sam (Ted Danson) going through all sorts of verbal contortions as he tries to make peace with Rebecca (Kirstie Alley). (Teletext)
9.30 The Great Plant Collections. Roy Lancaster visits Bodnant Gardens, north Wales, which contains one of the most beautiful collections of rhododendrons and azaleas in the British Isles (r). (Teletext)
10.00 The Golden Girls. New series with the Miami matrons and their witty one-liners. An old flame visits Rose and rekindles the romance that ended when he left to join Spike Jones's band. (Teletext)
10.30 A Shoe Fetishist's Guide to Bruce Morton. The young Scottish comedian finds humour and insecurity in sexual fetishism, the paranormal and Glasgow chip shops.
11.00 The Word. Amanda de Cadenet and Terry Christian with what is hot and what is not in the world of music, entertainment, film and fashion
12.00 Dancedaze recorded at London's Brixton Academy
1.00am Film: Daughters of Darkness (1970). Weirdly atmospheric vampire shocker starring Delphine Seyrig as a murderous lesbian countess who dresses like Marlene Dietrich. Directed by Harry Kumel. Ends at 2.50

Making his peace verbally: Ted Danson as Sam (9.00pm)

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Katts and Dog 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 11.40-12.35am Friday the 13th 2.35 In the Heat of the Night 3.30 America's Top Ten 4.00-5.00 American College Football

BORDER
As London except: 6.00pm Lookaround Friday 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road 11.40-12.40am Kojak 2.40 Night Beat 3.40-5.00 Film: Deadly Harvest

CENTRAL
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Three's Company 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Central News 11.40-12.40am Kojak 2.40 Film: Comfort and Joy 4.40 Profile 5.00-5.30 Grand Ole Opry Live

CHANNEL
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Channel News 6.15 Video '90 6.30-7.00 Nature and Wildlife 10.40 Tonight in Comedy 11.10 Ski Tips 11.40-12.40am Aspel in New York 2.40 Kreskin's Quest 3.10 Raw Power 4.10-5.00 Sally Jessy Raphael

GRANADA
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Bratpack 6.00 Home and Away 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 10.40 Hooperman 11.10 Aspel in New York 12.10am-12.40 Flowered Up 2.40 Night Beat 3.40-5.00 Film: Deadly Harvest

HTV WEST
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 HTV Sportsweek 10.40 Looking Back 11.10 The West This Week Special 11.40-12.40am Aspel in New York 3.00 Film: Ghost Story 4.45-5.00 Jobfinder

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm Wales at Six 6.30-7.00 Stopwatch 10.40-11.40 The Only Way to Cross

SCOTTISH
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Scotland Today 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road 10.40 Scotsport Extra Time 11.10 The Sick Kids 11.40 Hooperman 12.15am-12.40 The Twilight Zone 2.35 America's Top Ten 3.05-5.00 Film: Zorro, The Gay Blade

TSW
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Who's The Boss? 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Discovering Gardens 10.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.40-12.40am Michael Aspel in New York 2.40 Night Beat 3.40-5.00 Film: Deadly Harvest

TVS
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Coast to Coast: Weekend Special 6.50-7.00 Police 5 10.40 Tonight in Comedy 11.10 Ski Tips 11.40-12.40am Aspel in New York 2.40 Kreskin's Quest 3.10 Raw Power 4.10-5.00 Sally Jessy Raphael

TYNE TEES
As London except: 6.00pm Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.40-12.40am The Sweeney 2.40 Night Beat 3.40-5.00 Film: Deadly Harvest

ULSTER
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Glenroe 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Sportsbeat 10.40 Kelly 12.05am-12.40 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 2.40 Night Beat 3.40-5.00 Film: Deadly Harvest

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 6.00pm Calendar 6.30-7.00 Country Challenge 11.40-12.40am Survival – The James Whale Talent Show 2.35 Ben Sidran: On The Live Side 3.00 Kojak 4.00-5.00 The Silk Road

S4C
Starts: 6.00am The Art of Landscape 6.30 C4 Daily 9.25 Sesame Street 10.25 Batman and Robin 10.45 Film: The Old Fashioned Way* 12.05 And The Lighthouse Made Three 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Fifteen To One 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Matters of Taste 2.30 Film: The Ghost and Mrs Muir* 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Brookside 5.45 Hano 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Hano 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Dinas 7.30 Cofio Gari 8.30 Newyddion 8.55 Nigel Kennedy 9.55 The Further Adventures of Billy The Fish 10.00 Cheers 10.30 A Shoe Fetishist's Guide to Bruce Morton 11.00 The Word 12.00 Dancedaze 1.00am Film: Daughters of Darkness 2.50 Diwedd

RTE 1
Starts: 1.00pm News 1.30 Pinocchio 2.25 Desert Island 3.15 Film: Northwest Frontier 5.30 The Sullivans 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 6.30 The Chronicles of Narnia 7.00 Fair City 7.35 Grand Ole Opry 8.00 Winning Streak 8.30 After Henry 9.00 News 9.30 1990 – The Sporting Year 11.25 Film: Tight Spot 1.15am Close

NETWORK 2
Starts: 10.30am Bosco 11.00 Film: One Of Our Dinosaurs is Missing 12.25 Film: Hans Christian Andersen 2.20 Film: Tadpole and the Whale 3.50 Alvin and the Chipmunks 4.15 The Smurfs 4.40 The Jetsons 5.00 The Littlest Hobo 5.25 Huckleberry Hound 5.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 6.05 The Story of Spit McPhee 6.30 Home and Away 6.55 Nuacht 7.00 Cursai 7.30 Coronation Street 8.00 News followed by Around the World in 82 Feet 9.00 Check It Out 9.30 News followed by The Accountant 11.10 The RTE Van Brugh Quartet 11.40 Lou Grant 12.25am Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.
6.00am *Cricket: The Ashes. The third Test between England and Australia* 7.00 Cricket Highlights 7.30 The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Playabout 9.10 Jackpot 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 It's Your Round 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.15 Loving 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Lost in Space 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Growing Pains 8.00 Riptide 9.00 Hunter 10.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 11.00 Cricket Highlights 12.00 Cricket: The Ashes. The second day of the third Test between England and Australia

SKY NEWS
● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites. News on the hour.
5.30am Newsline 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.30 Review '90 – The Royals 1.30pm NBC Today, Part One 2.30 NBC Today, Part Two 3.30 Review '90 – The Royals 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 Target 8.30 Review '90 – The Royals 10.30 European Business Today 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 NBC Nightly News 2.30 Review '90 – The Royals 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 European Business Today

SKY MOVIES
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 A Stoning in Fulham County (1988): After an Amish child is killed, a lawyer has to convince members of the religious sect to go against their beliefs and testify against the killers in court
12.00 Ninotchka (1939): Classic comedy in which Greta Garbo stars as a stern Communist envoy from Russia who is sent to Paris
2.00pm Not Just Another Affair (1982): A romantic comedy starring Victoria Principal as a lonely-hearted marine biologist
4.00 Techno-Police: Animated adventures in which a policeman of the future teams up with two robotic cops
6.00 Dream Date (1988): An over-protective father sets out to shadow his daughter. Starring Tempestt Bledsoe and Clifton Davis
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Beaches (1988): A touching drama which traces the 30-year friendship between two women. Starring Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey
10.00 The Believers (1987): Martin Sheen stars as a cop who sets out to discover the truth about a mysterious voodoo-like cult
11.50 Best Seller (1987): Thriller in which cop-turned-author Brian Dennehey is approached by a former hit man (James Woods), who wants him to write a book about his work for a prominent businessman (Paul Shenar)
1.45am Cat's Eye (1985): A trilogy of terror from horror author Stephen King. Starring Drew Barrymore and James Woods
4.00 The Big Score (1983): John Saxon stars as a narcotics cop who is accused of stealing part of a drugs haul. Ends at 5.25

EUROSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
7.30am Eurobics 8.00 World Skating Championships 9.00 Swimming 10.00 Motorcross 11.00 Motor Sport 12.00 Eurobics 12.30pm Rowing 2.00 Documentary: The History of Football 3.00 Athletics 5.00 World Waterskiing Tour 6.00 World Sports Special 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Martial Arts Festival 8.00 Swimming 9.00 World Cup Ski Jumping 10.00 Motor Sport 10.15 The Arnold Palmer Story 11.15 Eurosport News 11.45 Motor Sport 12.00 American Football 2.00am Big Wheels

SCREENSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite
7.00am Review of World Rally Championships 8.00 Sport en France 8.30 The Sports Show 9.30 Boxing from the Forum 11.00 Ice Hockey 1.00 US College Football 3.00 The European Sports Network Review 1990 5.00 Spanish Football Roundup 5.30 Sport en France; Screensport Update 6.00 1991 Paris-Dakar Rally 6.15 NBA Basketball 8.15 Go Dutch Motor Sports 9.15 US Professional Boxing 10.45 1991 Paris-Dakar Rally 11.00 Ice Hockey 1.00 World Cup Figure Skating 2.00 US College Football 4.00 US PGA Review 1990 6.00 Rugby Review 1990

MTV
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE
● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am The Great American Gameshows 11.15 Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Workout 11.50 Telemart 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 Star Time 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Divorce Court 2.25 Lifestyle Plus 2.35 Country Ways 3.05 Rafferty's Rules 3.55 Tea Break 4.05 WKRP in Cincinnati 4.35 The Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
● Via the Marco Polo satellite
1.05pm The Movie Show
1.35 The Silver Chalice (1954): Paul Newman's unmemorable screen début as the Greek who designed the cup used in the Last Supper
4.00 Two Rode Together (1961): Marshall James Stewart bargains with the Indians in this lacklustre western
6.00 Kid Galahad (1937): Edward G. Robinson and Bette Davis star in this hard-hitting boxing film
8.00 Scrooged: A mean television boss (Bill Murray) lines up a poor selection of viewing for the festive season but a ghost teaches him the error of his ways
10.00 The Big Man. Liam Neeson stars as a teacher who, after being released from a prison spell for assault, takes up bare knuckle boxing
12.05am Body Double (1984). A pornographic actress (Melanie Griffith) is used to snare a killer
2.15 The Untouchables (1987). Atmospheric tale of Al Capone and his mob, starring Sean Connery. Ends at 4.25

THE SPORTS CHANNEL
● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
1.25pm Sportdesk 1.30 Racing Today 2.00 FA Cup 4.00 National Hockey League 5.00 Texas Championship Rodeo 6.00 Sportsdesk 6.30 NFL This Week 7.00 Motor World 7.30 Sportsdesk 8.00 Boxing 10.00 Sportsdesk 10.30 This is the Sports Channel 11.30 Racing Today 12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30am Boxing

THE POWER STATION
● Via the Marco Polo satellite
7.00-3.45am Rock and pop

RADIO 3

Midnight-7.05am (MW only) Test Match Special: England v Australia. First day of the third Test from Sydney
6.55am Weather and News Headlines (FM only)
7.00 Morning Concert: Dvořák (Wind Serenade in D minor, Op 44: Orpheus CO)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Berkeley/Britten (Mont Juic Suite); Lutoslawski (Variations on a Theme by Paganini); Scarlatti, transc Shostakovich (Pastorale and Capriccio); Rodrigo (Concierto en modo galante)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Schubert. Der Wanderer an den Mond, D 870 (Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone, Alfred Brendel, piano); Symphony No 9 in C, Great (Vienna PO under Solti)
9.35 One Man's Music: The musical tastes of Frank Bridge, who died in January 1941. Bridge (Berceuse); Debussy (String Quartet); Fauré (Cantique de Jean Racine); Bridge (Phantasy in F sharp minor); Liszt (Etude in D flat; Petrarch Sonnet No 1; Mephisto Waltz No 1), Ravel (Introduction and Allegro); Bridge (Lament for strings); Bridge (Piano Sonata); Humperdinck (Prelude: Hansel and Gretel)
11.50 Ulster Orchestra performs Tchaikovsky (Overture: The Tempest); Tchaikovsky, compl Bogatyryev (Symphony No 7 in E flat) (r)
1.00pm News
1.05 Chamber Music from Manchester: Matisse Piano Quartet performs Schubert (Adagio and Rondo in F, D 487); Mendelssohn (Piano Quartet in B minor, Op 3)
2.00 Christmas Quiz
● CHOICE: Considering the high degree of musicology it assumes in (and gets from) its panellists, and considering that this is Radio 3, not Radio 2, the last thing we would expect is that the women (Rosalind Adams, Judith Clark and Lucy Skeaping) and the men (Christopher Hyde-White, William Mathias and Rodney Slatford) should use bicycle horns and party squeakers to command the ear of chairman David Owen Norris. But then the Christmas season is not over yet. Probably only during these festive Twelve Days could *Macbeth* and *The Mikado* be quizzically wed as they are this afternoon (r)
3.00 Youth Orchestras of the World: Essex Youth Orchestra Jazz Band from the Aberdeen International Youth Festival
4.05 Bach and Hindemith: Raphael Wallfisch, cello, and Peter Wallfisch, piano, perform Bach (Sonata in G minor, BMV 1029) and Hindemith (Sonata, Op 11 No 3)
4.45 All the World's a Globe: The final episode, with guest Ben Kingsley
5.00 Leeds Piano Competition: Artur Pizarro, this year's winner, plays his semi-final recital. Debussy (Children's Corner); Rachmaninov (Sonata No 2 in B flat minor – original version); Chopin (Etudes, Op 25)
6.15 Boccherini (String Quartet No 75 in D, G 339)
6.30 The Music Maker: Ian Carr on the trumpeter Miles Davis
7.00 News
7.05 Master Photographer: Grace Robertson (r)
7.30 Uchida Plays Beethoven: ECO under Jeffrey Tate performs Henze (Being Beauteous: Sally Harrison, soprano); Beethoven (Concerto No 5 in E flat, Op 73: Mitsuko Uchida, piano); 8.25 Uchida talks to Michael Oliver about the fifth Piano Concerto. 8.35 Beethoven (Symphony No 8 in F, Op 93)
9.10 The Priest of Nemi: A reassessment of Sir James Frazer's *The Golden Bough*
10.10 Fischer-Dieskau Sings Wolf: Three Michelangelo Lieder; Grenzen der Menschheit; Phänomen; Frühling über's Jahr; Wanderers Nachtlied; Der Soldat I; Nachtzauber; Seemanns Abschied; Herz, verzage nicht Geschwind; Dereinst, dereinst, Gedanke mein; Ach, wie lang die seele schlummert; Gesegnet sei, durch den die Welt entstund; Ein Ständchen Euch zu Bringen; Benedeit die sel'ge Mutter; Begegnung; Nimmersatte Liebe; Lied eines Verliebten; Der Jäger. With Hartmut Höll, piano
11.30 Composers of the Week: Offenbach (r)
11.55-7.05am (MW only): Test Match Special: Second day of the third Test between England and Australia
12.30am News 12.35 Close

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.0 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day (s) 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 8.43 People Who Say Goodbye, by P.Y. Betts (7 of 10) 8.58 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley with Keith Floyd (s) (r)
9.45 Feedback: Chris Dunkley airs listeners' complaints about BBC programmes and policy
10.00 News; Special Assignment
10.30 Morning Story: My *True Love* Sent to Me, by Daphne Schiller. Read by Celia Imrie
10.45 Daily Service (s)
11.00 News; Friday Lives: Compelling stories about real-life people and the lives they lead (s)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Margaret Collins
12.25pm The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (s) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: From Manchester. Includes a feature on mothers of abused children; an interview with the first British woman to compete in and complete the Iditarod trans-Alaska husky dog race; dermatologist Dr Paul August talks about facial disfigurements and the laser technology and cosmetic camouflage used to treat them; and Hungarian Marta Lindop, a musical agent between East and West, talks about *Doctor Heart*, a new rock opera from Hungary, being premiered in Manchester this year
3.00 News; Classic Serial: The Forsyte Chronicles. A 23-part adaptation of John Galsworthy's saga, narrated by Dirk Bogarde (14) (s) (r)
4.00 News
4.05 Word Detectives: Eric Robson investigates how lexicographers discover the new words which find their way into dictionaries
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Tim Marlow meets printmakers who are exhibiting their work at the Royal Academy's new exhibition, The Infernal Method; there is a review of the film *The Nasty Girl*; and a review of the new book on the 19th-century Austrian artist Caspar David Friedrich
5.00 PM, with Wendy Austin and Frank Partridge 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report
6.30 The London International Boat Show: Cliff Michelmore and Sally Taylor report live from the 1991 show at Earls Court in London
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week with Margaret Howard (s)
8.05 Any Questions? From Clifton, Bedfordshire. James Naughtie is joined by Tony Blair, MP, Shadow Employment Secretary; journalist and economist Mary Goldring; Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter; and John Redwood, MP
8.50 Stop Press: Geoffrey Goodman with a personal view of the week's press
9.15 Kaleidoscope: Round Midnight. John Fordham talks to leading jazz players, including saxophonist Sonny Rollins and guitarist Stanley Jordan, about Thelonious Monk's jazz classic (s)
9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: The Warden, by Anthony Trollope (5 of 10)
11.00 Week Ending: Bill Wallis, Sally Grace and David Tate with a satirical review of the week's news (s)
11.25 The Financial Week: Presented by Richard Quest from New York (s)
11.45 Under the Weather: Using the BBC sound archives, the climatologist Mick Kelly looks at the British and their weather. In the last of three programmes, he examines the storms of 1987 and 1990 (r)
12.00-12.30am News; Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Jenny Costello 7.30 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 10.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Round Table 7.30 Jeff Young's Big Beat 10.00 The Friday Rock Show with Tommy Vance 12.00-2.00am Andy Peebles Soul Train

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Steve Madden 5.30 David Allan 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.0 Jimmy Young 1.50pm David Jacobs 2.00 Debbie Thrower 3.30 Music While You Work 4.00 Bob Holness 5.50 John Dunn 7.00 Journey into Space (r) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Andrew Vinter at the piano 9.00 Listen to the Band: The second of two programmes from the 1990 Brass in Concert Entertainment Contest 10.00 Alan Titchmarsh 12.50am Pat Boone (r) 1.00-4.00 Colin Berry with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Take Five 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.40 This Family Business: incl 11.00 Sport 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm Anita Morgan Meets Joe Rolands 1.00 Sport 1.50 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.50 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service: Meridian Books 3.00 Sport 3.50 Outlook 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Sport 4.50 Caribbean Magazine 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 Celebrity Stories 7.35 Hanky Panky, by Roger Collinson 8.0 Afro-Pop 9.0 The National Children's Orchestra 9.30 Rave, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service: Worldbrief 11.23 From the Weeklies 11.38 The World Today 11.58-12.5am Sports Desk

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German: headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.58 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours; News Summary and Financial News 7.30 News Quiz of the Year 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 9.45 Seven Seas 10.00 News Summary 10.01 Focus on Faith 10.30 The Great Musicals 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Global Concerns 11.30 Midi Magazine 11.59 Travel News 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm News Quiz of the Year 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours; News Summary and Financial News 1.30 Quote, Unquote 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: Four "Dreadful" Tales 2.45 The Great Divide 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 News Headlines in English 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 The World Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Science in Action 9.00 News Summary 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 That's the Way It Was 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Commentary 11.10 Financial News 11.15 Worldbrief 11.30 Multitrack 3 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am From the Weeklies 12.45 Recording of the Week 1.00 News Summary 1.01 Outlook 1.25 Financial News 1.30 Seeing Stars 1.45 Here's Humph! 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 3.59 Weather 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

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HOMEOWNERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Tory council leaders attack Heseltine over poll tax review

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE local government leaders have accused Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, of refusing to meet them informally to discuss the government's review of the poll tax.

Senior Tories in the local authority associations say that Mr Heseltine has insisted that contacts must be through official meetings and that he has rebuffed invitations to hold private talks.

Although the Conservative party is organising two national meetings at which councillors will be able to put their views to Mr Heseltine, the senior Tories in the local government groups want a "fireside chat" with the minister. *The Tory council leaders argue* that as the reform of the poll tax is crucial to the party's electoral survival at both national and local level, Mr Heseltine should talk directly to them rather than using formal channels.

They point out that Labour local government leaders work closely with their party's frontbench spokesmen and have urged Mr Heseltine to let them help in his search for a solution to the poll tax problem. The leaders say that, having borne the brunt of opposition to the tax, they now want to ensure that any modifications or replacements do not put them in an even worse position.

Although many local government Tories bitterly disagreed with the introduction of the poll tax, nearly all have loyally defended it, in some cases at considerable cost to their own political careers. "Considering all that we have done to bring in the community charge, and the losses we suffered in last May's local elections, it smacks of ingratitude not to even hear what we have to say," one senior Tory said.

Another added: "So far it has all been done very formally by consulting officers at official level. He is just not talking to local government leaders in his own party. It is not absolutely surprising. His relationship with local government, particularly its national leaders, was not all that easy the last time he was environment secretary."

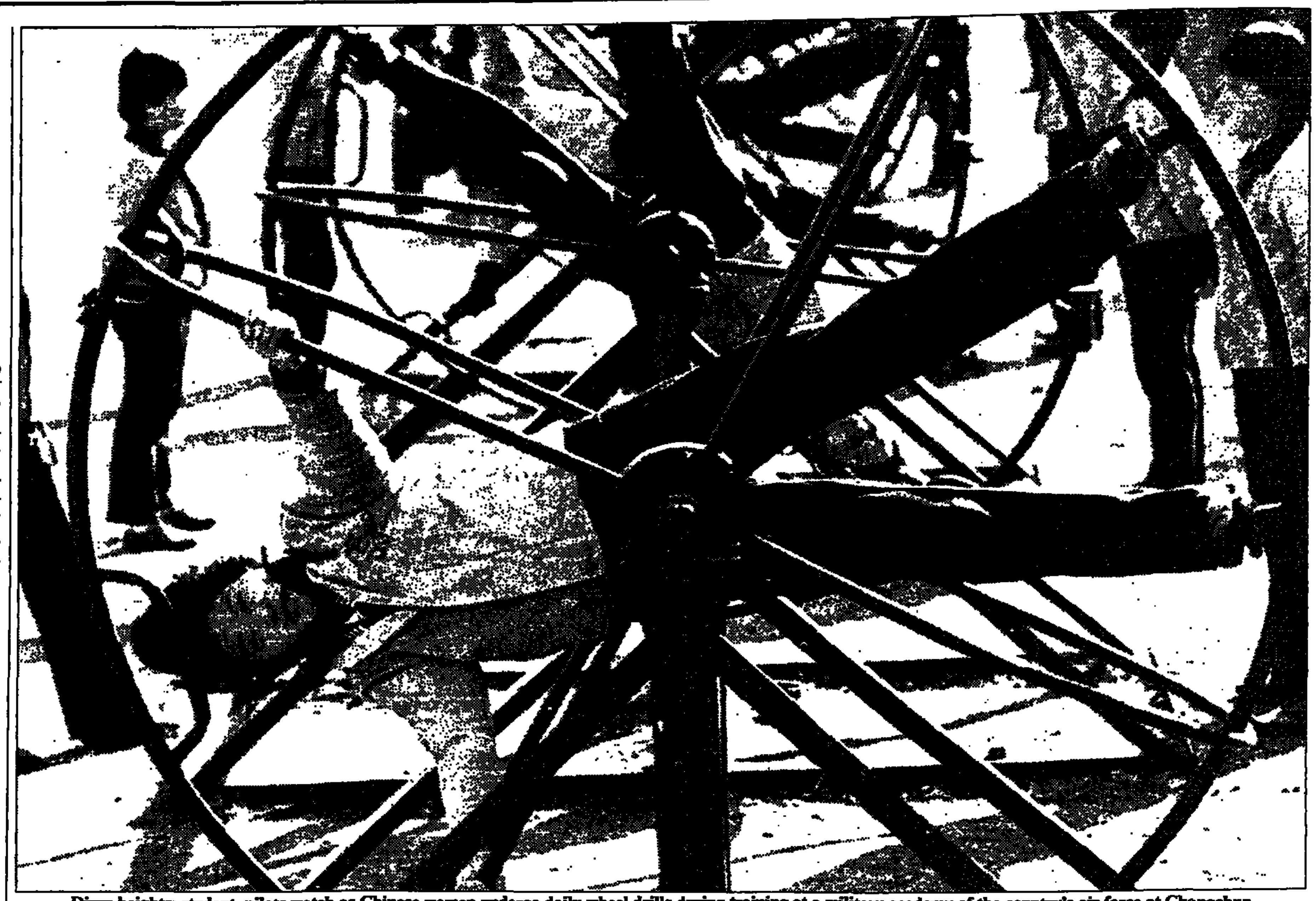
Richard Holt, MP for Langbaurgh, who chairs the Conservative party's national local government advisory committee, said he was astonished that any senior Tories felt their voice was not being heard. The party is holding a national meeting of Conservative council leaders in Birmingham on January 18 which will be attended by Mr Heseltine and Michael Portillo, the local government minister.

Mr Holt, who will chair the gathering and a meeting of the 120 members of his committee with Mr Heseltine the following week in Coventry, said: "Anyone who wants to air their views can come along. If anyone has a beef I can get them in to see Michael Heseltine. There is no problem in fixing up a meeting.

"But he will not, for example, be meeting all of his 380 colleagues in the House of Commons on a personal basis. In the 16 years that I have been on the local government committee there has never been such an opportunity for influencing the local government decision-making process."

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said: "Far be it for me to interfere in an internal Conservative party disagreement but a politically acceptable solution to the problem of local government finance will not be achieved purely through formal structures.

"It would be very surprising indeed if the Conservative party's local government leadership did not have a view on the catastrophe of the poll tax which has wreaked such havoc on those they represent and on their own party."



Dizzy heights: student pilots watch as Chinese women undergo daily wheel drills during training at a military academy of the country's air force at Changchun

A hard year for the royal family firm

Continued from page 1

cords, in any case, show no let-up on the part of the people who incontestably rank as the most engaging family in Britain. During the 1980s the royal family doubled its number of official engagements. Last year's total showed a slight setback, falling slightly short of 1989's 3,196 engagements in the United Kingdom, but it was accomplished despite the handicap of the Prince of Wales's polo accident.

The Duchess of York also undertook fewer engagements in 1990, because of the birth of Princess Eugenie in March. As a serving Royal Navy officer the Duke of York can also carry out few official engagements. Prince Edward, though establishing a career in the theatre, often found time at weekends to undertake engagements.

Princess Margaret had a notably busier official diary in 1990. Many of her engagements were as president of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Boy who killed child gets indefinite term

By Kerry Gill

A BOY aged 12 was detained indefinitely yesterday for battering a three-year-old with stones and then drowning him in a stream. The boy, who cannot be named, attacked the child, Jamie Campbell, as he played in a stream in the Drumchapel area of Glasgow.

Lord Sutherland, passing sentence at the High Court in Edinburgh, said: "It appears to have been a deliberate assault leading to the death of a three-year-old child with no discernible motive except out of sheer wickedness."

During an earlier hearing at the High Court in Glasgow, the boy was cleared of murder but found guilty of culpable homicide.

Jamie was being cared for by relatives after his mother died in a fire, the court was told. Last August, he had been playing near his grandmother's home, and witnesses saw him with an older boy answering the description of the accused near the Garscadden burn. Two women subsequently found Jamie lying face down over a large stone with his head in the water. He had been drowned and had 14 wounds to his head and neck.

Donald Findlay, QC, for the defence, said yesterday: "The boy, although 12 years of age, is clearly somebody who in reality is but an infant in his attitudes and in many of his stages of development. He is a young lad who clearly needs some help. My fear would be that if you impose an open-ended order it gives the lad no hope at all."

Lord Sutherland said that, although it would normally be most unusual to detain a young child for a long time, the circumstances were very disturbing. Psychiatric reports had indicated a "potential personality disorder". An indeterminate sentence would enable the boy's development to be monitored, he said.

Robert Gallagher, Jamie's uncle and adoptive father, said the killer should have been named. "He is a danger to the public and they will never know who he is."

UDR Four enquiry is reopened

THE campaign for the release of four Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers, jailed for life in 1986 for the murder of a Roman Catholic, took another step forward yesterday with the announcement of a new investigation into police notes (Edward Gorman writes).

In a statement, the RUC said a preliminary report on forensic tests carried out on police notes of interviews with the soldiers suggested that further investigation of certain points was required.

The decision was welcomed by Peter Robinson MP, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist party, who is among those campaigning for the soldiers' release. "The statement from the RUC today is but the harbinger of what is to come. The clanging of the keys to release these men can now be heard," he said.

James Hagan, Noel Bell, Winston Allen and Neil Latimer, known as the Armagh or UDR Four, were all involved, according to the Crown, in the shooting of Adrian Carroll in Armagh in November 1983.

Iraqi threats led to diplomats' expulsion

Continued from page 1

following Iraq's expulsion last year of a British embassy press officer in Baghdad.

Baghdad seems likely to retaliate by expelling some of the three British diplomats and three support staff who have stayed behind. The source said this would be "entirely unjustified" and pointed out that Iraq had far more people in Britain than Britain had in Iraq.

After the eight Iraqis have gone, there will still be 15 diplomats and 17 support staff at its embassy, and between 5,000 and 6,000 other Iraqi residents throughout Britain.

The remaining staff at the British embassy in Baghdad consists of Harold Walker, the ambassador, his deputy, a management officer, two security officers and a communications officer.

The Iraqi diplomats ordered to leave were named as Nattiq Bakir, assistant press counsellor; Naiel Abdul-Jabbar Hassan, press counsellor; Hussein Muhammad Jadoue, third secretary; Luai Sadik Mahdi, attaché; Mudhaffar Mohammed Mahmoud, assistant cultural adviser; Salih Faraj Mohammad, first secretary; and Kamel Khurshid Murad, assistant press counsellor. The security guard was Mihsin Nashmi Hamidi.

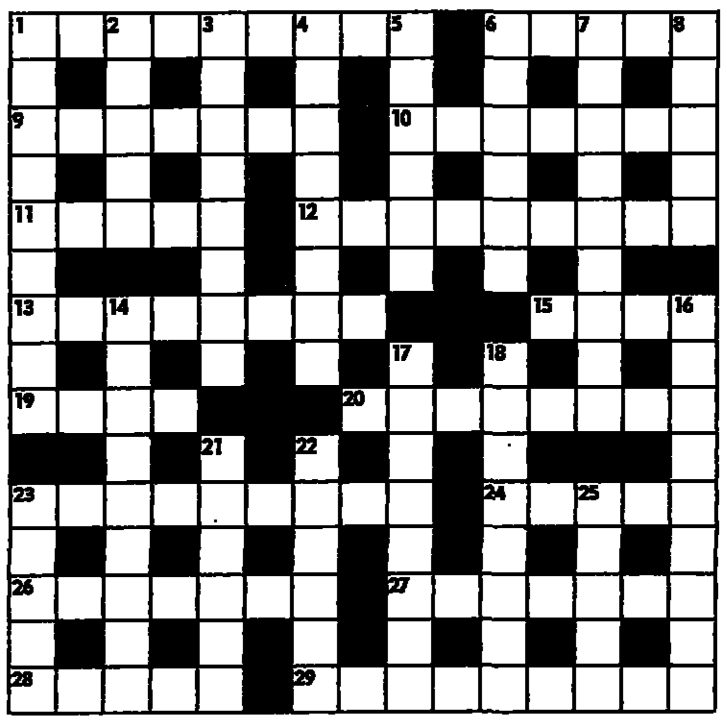
Veteran members of the Iraqi community in Britain yesterday welcomed the expulsion of 75 of their number, saying that they regarded any move against the regime of President Saddam Hussein as a positive step.

Laith Kubba and Sayed Jawad, engineering graduates who have been in Britain for 18 and 14 years respectively, said they accepted the goverment's explanation for the expulsions. "Britain is tightening its grip on Iraq's intelligence agents in Britain in case of war," said Mr Kubba.

Mr Mohammed, the first secretary, denied that he had made any public threat.

Azmi al-Salihi, the Iraqi ambassador, was summoned to the Foreign Office to be told of the expulsions by David Gore-Booth, an undersecretary responsible for Middle East affairs. He expressed his regrets at the expulsions.

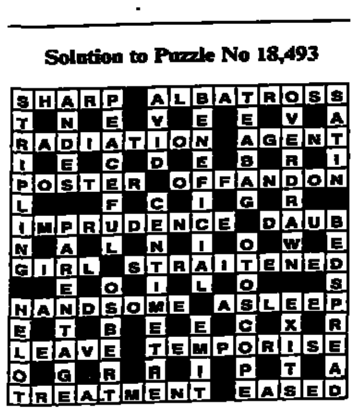
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,494



ACROSS
1 Girl's prayer-book in the boot (9).
6 Spring crop up? (5).
9 Left statue unfinished in colonnade (7).
10 Cheese-roll on, but not for long (7).
11 Revolving disc in kick-start device? (5).
12 Spring shorter? No, unlimited! (9).
13 A French gathering outside normal hours (8).
15 House with stable? (4).
19 Point-to-point at College (4).
20 Take Greek letter separately, in a thoughtful way (8).
23 South-east, by zonal accident, snail is found (9).
24 Central post held up in flight (5).
26 Retreat or study fitted with air outlet (7).
27 Ovid was at odds to contradict (7).
28 Tobacco tin dated (5).
29 Ahab's man — individual right behind Marx? (9).

DOWN
1 Leaving change? (9).
2 Trifle brings up skin blemishes (5).
3 Private address? (8).
4 Production of manifest on vessel (8).
5 Party effort (6).
6 Light rollers? (6).
7 Note contribution for decorating book-edges (9).
8 English poet in two minds? (5).
14 Sudden attack to be made on character in a bar (9).
16 Nurseryman's guarded forecast for the cowslip, say? (9).
17 Surface right for an alien (8).
18 No knife's employed in making reindeer boots (8).
21 Protest with end in view (6).
22 Grab a bit of air (6).
23 Place where something happened — insect lost its tail (5).
25 Made in mill with small kiln (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,493



Concise Crossword, page 13

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BARD BODS

JESSICA
a. A bawdy landlady
b. An unfortunate Scottish countess
c. A runaway heiress

BOLINGBROKE
a. A necromancer
b. A venal hangman
c. A bosom companion of Hotspur

CALPURNIA
a. Coriolanus' mother
b. Caesar's wife
c. Mark Antony's wife

PHILOSTRATE
a. Companion of Pericles
b. Former chum of Timon
c. An Athenian impresario

Answers on page 16

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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23.	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roundworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
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WEATHER

This evening, heavy rain will spread into Northern Ireland, Wales, western England and western Scotland. The heaviest showers will be in the North and the West, and may turn thundery. *Eastern England will be brightest. Showers will* turn wintry with sleet in the South, perhaps snow on hills, and snow in the North. Gales in the West and the North. Outlook: wet and windy, but becoming brighter with showers.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Majorca	16	61	f
Akrotiri	17	63	f	Malaga	15	59	s
Alex'dria	18	64	c	Malta	15	59	f
Algiers	19	66	s	Melb'rne	38	100	s
Amst'dm	9	48	f	Mexico C*	19	66	s
Athens	14	57	s	Miami*	26	79	f
Bahrain	15	59	f	Milan	0	32	c
Barbados*	28	82	f	Montreal*	0	32	s
Barcelna	14	57	s	Moscow	-9	16	f
Belgrade	7	45	c	Munich	12	54	c
Berlin	8	46	c	Nairobi	.	.	.
Bermuda*	23	73	s	Naples	14	57	f
Biarritz	17	63	s	N Delhi	14	57	c
Borde'x	13	55	c	N York*	7	45	s
Brussels	9	48	c	Nice	15	59	s
Budapst	7	45	c	Oslo	1	34	f
B Aires*	29	84	s	Paris	11	52	r
Cairo	20	68	f	Peking	-2	28	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Perth	22	72	f
C'blanca	15	59	c	Prague	10	50	f
Chicago*	-6	21	c	Reykjvik	3	37	f
Ch'church	16	61	s	Rhodes	15	59	f
Cologne	7	45	c	Rio de J	27	81	f
C'phagn	6	43	s	Riyadh	15	59	s
Corfu	14	57	s	Rome	13	55	f
Dublin	4	39	s	Salzburg	9	48	c
Dubrovnik	14	57	s	S F'risco*	8	46	c
Faro	14	57	s	Santiago*	.	.	.
Florence	11	52	c	S Paulo*	29	84	c
Frankfurt	10	50	r	Seoul	-2	28	sn
Funchal	19	66	f	Sing'por	28	82	r
Geneva	10	50	s	St'kholm	4	39	c
Gibraltar	16	61	f	Strasb'rg	11	52	c
Helsinki	0	32	sn	Sydney	30	86	c
Hong K	19	66	c	Tangier	16	61	f
Innsbrck	5	41	f	Tel Aviv	18	64	f
Istanbul	8	46	f	Tenerife	20	68	s
Jeddah	25	77	s	Tokyo	10	50	s
Jo'burg*	25	77	f	Toronto*	-1	30	f
Karachi	16	61	f	Tunis	15	59	s
L Palmas	21	70	s	Valencia	14	57	s
Le Tquet	9	48	f	Vanc'ver*	1	34	c
Lisbon	6	43	s	Venice	4	39	c
Locarno	4	39	s	Vienna	14	57	f
L Angels*	17	63	f	Warsaw	9	48	s
Luxembg	9	48	d	Wash'ton*	9	48	s
Luxor	20	68	s	Wel'nton	17	63	f
Madrid	3	37	c	Zurich	10	50	f

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: p max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F), min 6 pm to 6 am 7C (45F) Humidity: 6 pm, 89 per cent Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.21 in Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.8 hr Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 999.8 millibars, rising
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp. London, 13C (55F), lowest day max Salsburgh, near Glasgow, 1C (34F) highest rainfall Falmouth, Cornwall, 1.39 in. highest sunshine Aberdeen, 5.1 hr

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F) min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F) Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.13 in Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, 3.9 hrs

GLASGOW

Yesterday: max 6 am to 6 pm 5C (41F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F) Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.16 ins Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, nil

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.1	.19	6	43	sunny
Belfast	2.8	.16	5	41	shower
Birmingham	0.8	.20	11	52	shower
Bognor Regis	0.1	.69	11	52	rain
Bournemouth	-	.82	13	55	rain
Bristol	0.2	.76	12	54	rain
Buxton	0.8	.24	8	46	shower
Cardiff	0.4	.52	11	52	rain
Clacton	0.3	.29	11	52	rain
Douglas	1.2	.03	8	46	bright
Edinburgh	-	.57	6	43	shower
Eskdalemuir	-	.80	5	41	sleet
Exmouth	-	.45	13	55	rain
Folkestone	-	.33	12	54	rain
Glasgow	-	.51	7	45	shower
Kinloss	1.3	.20	5	41	shower
Leeds	1.7	.20	9	48	rain
Lerwick	0.1	.74	6	43	hail
London	0.2	.30	13	55	rain
Lowestoft	-	.23	11	52	shower
Manchester	1.5	.40	9	48	shower
Margate	X	.18	13	55	rain
Morecambe	0.3	.52	8	46	shower
Newcastle	-	.04	8	46	shower
Newquay	-	.26	12	54	rain
Nottingham	0.6	.30	9	48	shower
Plymouth	-	.73	12	54	rain
Scarborough	2.4	.24	8	46	shower
Shanklin	-	.87	12	54	rain
Southend	0.3	.11	12	54	rain
St. Ives	-	.63	13	55	rain
Stornoway	0.4	.15	6	43	hail
Teignmouth	-	.49	13	55	rain
Tenby	0.6	.29	11	52	cloudy
Tiree	0.9	.18	7	45	thundr
Torquay	-	1.03	13	55	rain
Wick	1.9	.03	5	41	sleet

These are Wednesday's figures

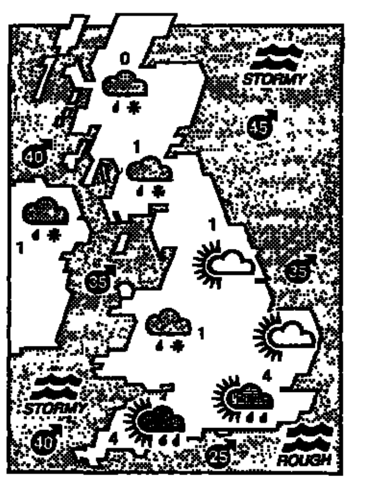
TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 *followed by the appropriate code.*

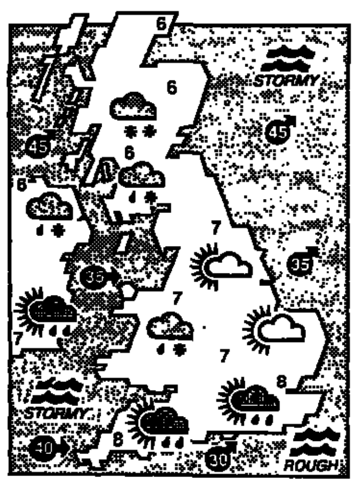
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex.	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW.	703
Devon & Cornwall.	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District.	719
S W Scotland.	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland.	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

AM



PM



YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	1	34	sn	Guernsey	8	46	r
B'rmgham	7	45	s	Inverness	2	36	r
Blackpool	6	43	c	Jersey	9	48	r
Bristol	8	46	s	London	9	48	f
Cardiff	8	46	f	M'nchster	6	43	f
Edinburgh	3	37	r	Newcastle	5	41	s
Glasgow	3	37	f	R'nldsway	4	39	r

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.05 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.15 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.53 pm to 8.43 am
Manchester 4.03 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 4.33 pm to 8.21 am

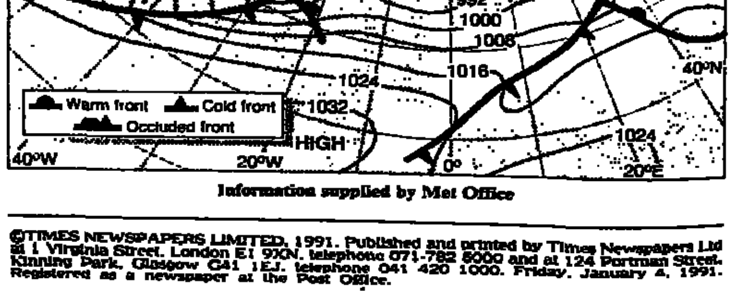
Sun rises: 8.6 am
Sun sets: 4.5 pm
Moon sets 9.59 am
Moon rises 9.20 pm

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.0	7.2	4.28	7.5
Aberdeen	3.42	4.3	3.42	4.5
Avonmouth	9.34	13.6	10.0	13.1
Belfast	1.24	3.3	1.31	3.8
Cardiff	9.19	12.5	9.45	12.1
Devonport	8.8	5.6	8.36	5.2
Dover	1.4	6.7	1.26	6.5
Falmouth	7.38	5.4	8.6	5.0
Glasgow	3.1	4.8	3.1	5.4
Harwich	1.51	4.0	2.19	4.1
Holyhead	12.25	5.5	12.39	5.8
Hull	8.42	7.4	8.44	7.8
Ilfracombe	8.22	9.5	8.46	9.0
King's Lynn	8.57	6.6	8.56	6.9
Leith	4.50	5.6	5.13	5.7
Liverpool	1.20	9.4	1.38	9.6
Lowestoft	12.3	2.4	11.54	2.8
Margate	2.8	4.8	2.44	4.8
Milford Haven	8.34	7.2	9.0	6.8
Newquay	7.26	7.2	7.53	6.8
Oban	7.57	4.1	8.30	3.7
Penzance	7.12	5.7	7.41	5.3
Portland	9.6	2.5	9.50	2.1
Portsmouth	1.52	4.8	1.47	4.7
Shoreham	1.22	6.4	1.35	6.2
Southampton	1.3	4.7	1.14	4.5
Swansea	8.42	9.8	8.5	9.2
Tees	6.5	5.5	6.14	5.6
W'ton-on-Nze	1.44	4.2	2.15	4.3

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



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BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

FRIDAY JANUARY 4 1991

Haulier's collapse threatens 800 jobs

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

ABOUT 800 jobs are under threat after the appointment of administrative receivers to John Dee Group, the road haulage and warehousing company.

Miles Middleton, of Cork Gully, one of the joint receivers appointed by Lloyds Bank yesterday at the request of John Dee's directors, said the group is expected to show a deficiency.

John Dee, which is owned by John Davison, its chairman, is based in Ferryhill, County Durham. It has branches nationwide and owns about 600 tractor units and rigid lorries, and more than 1,000 trailers.

Mr Middleton said John Dee companies had distribution contracts with Comet, the electrical retailer; Magnet, the furniture company; and Courage, the brewer, among others.

The group has 11 active companies, all of which are now administered by Mr Middleton or Gordon Goldie of the Newcastle office of Cork Gully, the insolvency arm of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant. In some subsidiaries local partners of Cork Gully have also been made joint receivers.

Mr Middleton intends to continue trading the businesses until their viability has been assessed. He said he believed some of the John Dee subsidiaries were trading profitably, and that he hoped to be able to sell those parts of the group as going concerns.

"Some of the contracts appear to have been quite profitable," he said. However, he had yet to form a view on the profitability of John Dee's general haulage and warehousing activities.

Mr Middleton indicated that the use of overdrafts to finance rapid expansion of the group by acquisition over the past two to three years lay at the heart of its difficulties.

In 1986, John Dee had a turnover of £3.5 million. Last year, sales were £35 million, placing it among the 40 largest hauliers in Britain.

John Dee's downfall is the clearest signal yet that the road haulage industry, widely regarded as a sensitive barometer of economic activity, is having a bumpy ride.

According to a survey last month by the Freight Transport Association, almost a quarter of Britain's operators of heavy goods vehicles expect to cut their fleets this year.

More than 1,000 hauliers are believed to have gone out of business last year and analysts say many more face bankruptcy. Companies that serve the construction, do-it-yourself and white goods sectors have been particularly hard hit.

Hauliers have also been hurt by dearer fuel since the invasion of Kuwait and the high cost of borrowing. Because of heavy investment in recent years, Britain now has the youngest "lorry park" in Europe.

A transport association spokesman said: "I would think there are an awful lot of hauliers out there who are having a tough time. There have been a lot of receiverships among smaller companies."

Strong pound boosted by ERM pledge

By Colin Narbrough
Economics correspondent

THE pound has continued to advance, buoyed by the Chancellor's new year pledges on inflation and the exchange-rate mechanism, and by the Bundesbank's decision to leave German lending rates unchanged.

At its best, the currency climbed above DM2.91, the strongest it has been since late November, despite Treasury official reserves figures which indicated greater than expected Bank of England support for the pound in December.

The underlying fall of $225 million in the foreign exchange reserves, after an $85 million decline in November, illustrated the difficulty the government would have had in meeting demands for a base rate cut last month.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Midland Montagu, noted that if the initial $393 million proceeds of the electricity privatisation were taken into consideration, the scale of intervention to bolster sterling was considerable.

But the gains the pound has made this week have split City opinion over the chances of a base rate cut before the setting of annual mortgage rates at the end of this month.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi Securities, said that an early base rate cut was "completely out of the question" with the pound at the bottom of ERM.

Mr Briscoe saw the more aggressive intervention for the pound last month as explaining Mr Lamont's reluctance to cut rates. But, assuming sterling has now advanced under its own steam, Mr Briscoe saw scope for a base rate cut this month.

Jim O'Neill, foreign exchange analyst at Swiss Bank Corp, foresaw the pound probably reaching DM2.95, its central rate within the ERM. However, given Mr Lamont's commitments on ERM, he saw no chance of lower interest rates before February.

Sir Alan Walters, former economic adviser to Mrs Thatcher, meanwhile called for a devaluation of the pound rather than risk increasing interest rates to as much as 18 per cent. Speaking on BBC Radio 4, he said realigning the pound downwards by 10 to 15 per cent was one solution.

MICHAEL POWELL

Smiling through: Langdon chairman, left, and Tom Wrigley, chief executive

FNFC profits slump 49%

By Neil Bennett, banking correspondent

THE impact of high interest rates on homeowners has been shown in a 49 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £36.4 million at First National Finance Corporation (FNFC), the mortgage lender and finance house, in the year to end-October.

Richard Langdon, FNFC's chairman, said the group's bad debt provisions were £38 million higher than they would normally expect.

In all, provisions of £53 million were written off against profits, compared with about £12 million in 1989, excluding suspended interest payments.

Despite the fall in profits, the group is holding its final dividend at 8.5p, to make an unchanged dividend of 13p for the year.

FNFC's figures were at the bottom end of expectations, and marked a sharp downturn from the group's first-half profit of £29 million. They were taken by analysts as another indicator of the severity of the problems hitting the clearing banks.

FNFC has outstanding loans of £1.4 billion to 400,000 domestic customers, with, Mr Langdon said, most of the provisions being made against debts from professionals in the Southeast of England who took out their loans when interest rates were at their lowest in the mid-Eighties. Despite the recession, FNFC lent £200 million in the year, much of it on home improvement.

"It is good business," said Mr Langdon. "We are gaining an advantage on some of our competitors who are not lending."

The biggest fall came at the bank's property division, where profits fell 83 per cent to £1.82 million. FNFC sold 180 houses in the year, the same as in 1989, but reduced its margins to move stock.

Mr Langdon said FNFC had looked at several financial acquisitions in the year including British Credit Trust, the Bank of Ireland subsidiary, but had rejected them all.

Storehouse warning adds to gloom in high street

By Gillian Bowditch

A PROFITS warning from Storehouse, the British Home Stores, Mothercare and Habitat group, is the latest evidence of the recession in the high street.

Michael Julien, the chief executive of the group, said that although sales to date remain ahead of last time, it is unlikely that profit, before tax and exceptional items, for the year to end-March would exceed last year's figure of £32.6 million. The shares fell 3p to 110p.

Storehouse, in common with other retailers, had a poor November and a slow start to December, but, while sales for last month as a whole were in line with 1989, it was not enough to make up lost ground.

Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles' merchandise sold well as did co-ordinated lingerie and casualwear in BhS, but the group is taking a cautious view of the next three months. A spokesman said: "Trading is not disastrous, but we feel it is prudent to be cautious."

Ratners Group, the jeweller, is one of the few retailers to see an increase in like-for-like sales during Christmas, but the growth was below the group's expectations.

Ratners and Zales both saw sales grow 17 per cent on a like-for-like basis, H Samuel saw growth of 13 per cent and Sterling, the American business which incorporates Kay Jewelers, Ratners' recent American acquisition, saw sales rise 6 per cent.

Ratners said that while the Christmas sales were below best expectations, the directors were confident, that barring unforeseen circumstances, the group will exceed last year's pre-tax profit of £121.5 million.

Gary O'Brien, the finance director, said that Kay was on target to make profits of £10 million this year. Analysts have cut their forecasts for Ratners for next year from about £180 million to about £150 million. Ratners' shares rose 7p to 165p.

During Christmas, Ratners distributed 400,000 of its £50 vouchers free with every £150 spent. The vouchers are redeemable between February and August. But, even so, it was a low-ticket Christmas for Ratners in line with most other retail groups. The average ticket price at Ratners and H Samuel fell to just below £20. Sales of jewellery boxes and gifts were strong, as were sales of Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles' watches.

Argos confirmed that shoppers had bought less expensive gifts this Christmas. Of the group's 20 best selling lines, most fell between £8 and £18. Barbie doll and Batman sold well in Argos shops and six of the top 20 lines were Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles' merchandise.

Ratners is attempting to buy seven of the Easthope and Co shops. This jewellery chain, which was formerly Next the Jewellers, went into receivership on New Year's eve with the loss of 350 jobs.

Next has reclaimed 47 of the Easthope stores against which it had a charge and a spokesman for the group said it had been inundated with offers, including some for the entire chain.

Easthope owed Next £2.5 million. Shares in Next fell to 12½p but later closed unchanged at 13½p.

Comment, page 21

IMI takes control of Mint with 57% stake

IMI, the engineering group, has bought control of Birmingham Mint, its bid quarry, with the purchase of £1.4 million-worth of shares, or about 10.5 per cent of the share capital, in the market.

The bidder now claims control of about 57 per cent of Birmingham Mint, which makes coins and tokens, although the offer has not gone unconditional because the latest share purchases are not yet registered in IMI's name. The first closing date is 3pm today.

Tony Cross, chairman of Birmingham Mint, could give no advice to his shareholders other than to await a statement due today after a meeting with financial advisers. The board has vigorously rejected the final £13.6 million approach from IMI and has said that it would continue to resist even if acceptances passed the 50 per cent level. But there was no indication whether it would be confirming this stand.

Birmingham Mint took the unprecedented step this week of naming an acceptance price of 110p against a 95p a share on offer from IMI after the failure of talks at this level with a potential "white knight".

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9475 (+0.0045)

German mark
2.9067 (+0.0155)

Exchange index
94.1 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1648.5 (−7.2)

FT-SE 100
2117.8 (−10.5)

New York Dow Jones
2591.58 (−19.06)*

Major indices and major changes Page 22

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month interbank 14-13$\frac{15}{16}$%
3-month eligible bills: 13⅝-13$\frac{11}{32}$%
US: Prime Rate 9½%
Federal Funds 7⅜%*
3-month Treasury Bills 6.45-6.44%*
30-year bonds 106$\frac{15}{16}$-107*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9475	£: $1.9465*
£: DM2.9067	$: DM1.4923*
£: SwFr2.4675	$: SwFr1.2660*
£: FFr9.8806	$: FFr5.0705*
£: Yen259.51	$: Yen133.00*
£: Index:94.1	$: Index:60.9
ECU £0.704177	SDR £0.736879
£: ECU1.420097	£: SDR1.357074

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $386.75 pm-$386.30
close $386.00-386.50 (£198.25-198.75)
New York:
Comex $387.25-387.75*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) .... $25.00 bbl ($26.80)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.60	2.45
Austria Sch	21.40	20.00
Belgium Fr	62.75	58.75
Canada $	2.363	2.213
Denmark Kr	11.68	10.98
Finland Mkk	7.39	6.94
France Fr	10.28	9.68
Germany Dm	3.035	2.845
Greece Dr	325	305
Hong Kong $	15.65	14.85
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2285	2145
Japan Yen	274	258
Netherlands Gld	3.417	3.207
Norway Kr	11.88	11.18
Portugal Esc	269.90	253.90
South Africa Rd	5.25	4.75
Spain Pta	191.50	179.50
Sweden Kr	11.39	10.71
Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.41
Turkey Lira	5900	5400
USA $	2.035	1.915
Yugoslavia Dnr	30.00	23.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

Government to fund study for clean power from coal

By Our Industrial Correspondent

THE energy department is to fund a feasibility study for a 320 megawatt low pollution, high efficiency, coal burning power station.

Approval for the research is the first fruit of increasingly focused government support for the development of technologies that could allow British-mined coal to compete with gas-to-fuel new power generation projects.

The government remains hopeful that it can privatise the British Coal Corporation. However, removal of restrictions on the use of natural gas for power generation has lead to a spate of projects, some already under construction, to build gas fired power stations.

Natural gas stations are expected to generate power at 2.5p a unit, compared with more than 3.5p a unit for the best existing coal stations. Gas-fired plants also produce far fewer emissions.

The feasibility study, costing £90,000, will be directed by a working group including John Brown Engineering of Clydebank, British Gas and British Coal. They will provide free technical assistance under an initial 12-month agreement.

Foster Wheeler Energy, the international engineering and construction company of Reading, Berkshire, will undertake the pilot study. The purpose is to investigate the design and economics of an integrated gasification combined cycle plant. If the study shows sufficient commercial promise, the contract may be extended to develop a 650 mw generating station.

The integrated gasification design will rely upon the successful combination of two existing technologies.

British Gas, in partnership with Lurgi of Germany, has developed a low-pollution process that extracts clean gas from coal. This will be married to John Brown's combined cycle turbine technology, which enables waste heat from a main gas-fired turbine to assist power generation from a secondary turbine, improving heat conversion efficiency. Energy department projections suggest an integrated gasification plant could achieve a thermal efficiency of 45 per cent, compared to 37 per cent for the best existing coal stations, and 46-47 per cent expected of gas plants under construction.

Home fires burning, page 21

SFO drops de Spretter charges

By Our City Staff

THE Serious Fraud Office has withdrawn all fraud charges against Dean Byron de Spretter, the former head of de Spretter Futures & Options.

Mr de Spretter is likely to start proceedings against the fraud office for wrongful arrest according to his lawyers, Mailish & Co.

All six charges of fraudulent trading relating to Mr de Spretter and a former associate have been dropped and their legal costs will be paid out of central funds by order of Bow Street Magistrates Court.

The fraud office started its investigations in the summer of 1988 and laid charges more than two years later. The fraud office declined comment on any impending action by Mr de Spretter.

Communication agency blames lack of communication

Staff error costs the boss £780,000

By Martin Waller

PETER Gummer, chairman of Shandwick, the world's largest communications agency, is now effectively £780,000 poorer as a result of a legal error by mercifully unnamed company employees.

On December 5, at the company's annual meeting, Mr Gummer, whose brother, John Gummer, was a recent chairman of the Conservative party, announced that he was selling two million of his shares to the trustees of Shandwick's first ever Employee Share Ownership Plan, at the then market price of 90p, for a total of £1.8 million.

Since then the price has plummeted. Shandwick yesterday revealed that "due to an oversight in the preparation of the legal documentation" the entire deal had had to be renegotiated at a lower price. Mr Gummer is now selling just 1.25 million of his shares to the ownership plan at 51p, at which price the block he had first meant to sell would have been worth just £1.02 million, to meet a pressing tax bill. The price slid an additional 3p to 48p yesterday.

Antony Stoddart, deputy chairman of Shandwick, blamed "a lack of communication" for the oversight. "No one particularly is to blame. There's no question of legal action," he said.

The error, the responsibility of the group itself rather than one of its financial advisers, occurred when one of the host of legal documents needed for the share sale was not put in place.

"It was a small formality," said Mr Stoddard. "Other things being equal, it was something that could have been overlooked and rectified." But he conceded that the sale could not legally have proceeded without the mistake being corrected.

The trustees to the share ownership plan were not obliged to accept the previous price, given the subsequent fall, and would probably have been in breach of their fiduciary duty had they chosen to do so.

Ironically, one of the reasons for that fall was the very news that Mr Gummer was selling almost a third of his holding, as well as the difficult conditions in the agency sector.

Mr Gummer is now also transferring 419,000 shares over to his personal pension fund, and the proceeds of the two sales will meet his capital gains tax liabilities incurred from an earlier share placing.

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Sun Alliance cuts bonus rates across the board

By SARA MCCONNELL

SUN Alliance has cut all its annual life and pension policy bonus rates paid to investors, the first company to make an across the board cut in the present round of annual bonus declarations.

The company blamed the market downturn during 1990 and said it would continue to hold terminal bonuses at the reduced levels announced in October.

Reversionary bonuses and the bonus on pensions are down by 0.5 per cent to 7 per cent and 7.25 per cent respectively. Bonuses on sums assured are held at 3.5 per cent.

Terminal bonuses on 10-*year policies were cut in* December from 61 per cent of sum assured to 47 per cent while bonuses on 25-year policies were cut from 350 per cent of sum assured to 300 per cent.

The latest rate cuts mean a man aged 29 paying £30 a month into a 10-year endowment policy will receive a payout of £6,547 on a policy maturing after January 1, £11 less than last month.

Maturity payouts on 25-year endowments are similarly affected. Someone paying £30 a month will receive £52,429 after January 1 1991. Policies maturing between December 1 1990 and January 1 1991 paid out *£52,503 and policies maturing* between January 1 1990 and December 1 1990, £53,263.

Jim Jewell, director of Sun Alliance Life, said: "The year 1990 was historically very bad and it is proper to reflect this in our bonus structure."

General Accident announced yesterday that it would be maintaining reversionary bonuses on policies issued since 1982 at 4.75 per cent on sums assured and 6 per cent on annual bonuses.

Terminal bonuses will also be maintained or slightly increased. A 10-year policy costing £30 a month will pay out £7,029 after January 1 1991, an 0.6 per cent increase on last year. *The payout on a 25-year* policy is 12.4 per cent up on last year's at £63,080.

UK shares to rise, says Pru

THE Prudential, Britain's biggest institutional investor with control over about 3½ per cent of UK stocks, is expecting the British market to bounce back this year despite the economic outlook.

Australian, Japanese, Swiss and French stocks should also perform better this year but a *fall in American shares* is expected.

British shares represented excellent value and were outstandingly cheap by normal standards, said Alan Wren, Prudential Holborn's chief executive.

During the past 12 months the British market has given investors a bumpy ride. From a record high of 2,479.4 points on January 4, share prices fell 20 per cent to a low of 1,974.1 in September after the Gulf tension began. The market finished 12 per cent below its 1989 close.

"Much of the bad news to come has undoubtedly already been discounted by the market," said Mr Wren. However, more company failures were expected in 1991 and investors were advised to hold a diversified portfolio.

Investors force chief to go as Westport profits fall

By MARTIN BARROW

THE chairman of Westport Group, the marketing services concern, has been forced to resign after a dramatic deterioration in the company's trading performance and a sharp fall in its share price.

John Friswell, a founder of the company, announced his resignation after Westport revealed that interim profits fell from £1.25 million before tax to £14,000 in the six months to end-October. His departure follows pressure from major shareholders including Carlton Communications, which speaks for 27 per cent.

Earnings per share fell from 0.87p to 0.01p. The company has also provided an extraordinary charge of £1.82 million for the write-down of trade investments and the closure of the head office in Wales.

Ian McQuattie, who joined Westport as finance director last October, becomes chief executive. David Ludlam, a director of Carlton, will be responsible for the group's photographic and exhibition businesses. The company hopes to appoint a non-executive chairman soon.

Mr McQuattie said: "The recession forced us to take a close look at the businesses and examine our requirements in the light of current demand. We felt we couldn't expect our companies to agree to wholesale changes without submitting the board structure to a similar review." He added that Carlton had been consulted about changes.

Shares in USM-quoted Westport have been affected by concern about the impact of the decline in advertising expenditure. Having peaked at 42p in 1989, the shares were unchanged at 6p yesterday.

Mr McQuattie said reduced advertising spend had sharply reduced margins in the main businesses. Although turnover rose from £8.12 million to £11.39 million, operating profits declined from £1.25 million to £412,000.

Exceptional charges of £398,000 cover stock write-downs and 150 redundancies since May.

Star role for Captain Nigel

NOT ONLY DID YOU MISS OUT ON £4,300 TO START YOUR PERSONAL PENSION – BUT TWO CANNON CINEMA TICKETS AS WELL!
I MUST HAVE BEEN STAR-CRAVING MAD!!

THE strictly non-*alter ego* of a former Chancellor blasts off *next week to teach bug-eyed* aliens the joys of a Barclays' pension. Captain Nigel — no relation to Nigel Lawson, the bank's recently-appointed director — *is the star* of its latest £1 million advertising campaign.

Nigel, bearing more resemblance to Dan Dare than any *former inhabitant of* 11 Downing Street, will appear in posters and a cartoon.

Matched bargain trading

SHARES in 22 companies that failed to transfer to the USM following the demise of the Third Market will now be traded on a matched bargain basis under rule 535.2 of the International Stock Exchange.

They are Analysis Holdings, Andaman Resources, Biocure Holdings, Broadcast Communications, Cafe Inns, Camotech, *Chelsea Artisans*, Citybond Storage, Edinburgh Hibernian, Fast Forward Inns, Feltrim Mining, Glencar Exploration, Hartley Baird, Image Store Holdings, Invernia West, Oxford Virology, Poddington, Sempernova, Systems Connections, UPL Group, Video Magic and Vista Entertainment.

Automobiles of Distinction, a former Third Market company, is the subject of an agreed all-shares bid by the fully listed Cargo Control.

Smurfit buy

Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish packaging and paper group, has acquired more than 95 per cent of the Lestrem Group of French board and paper companies, which have an annual turnover above Fr250 million.

Scantec sold

Eurocopy, the photocopier and fax machine supplier, has acquired Scantec Office Equipment for £2.6 million, increasing its installed machine base by 25 per cent.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr Cos	97 –1
Brabant Res	155
CMW Group	28
Castle Cairn (50p)	32
ECU Tst	41
EFM Java Tst	35
Eidos	91
Excalibur Gp	43 –1
Faber Prest	145
Golden Vale	51
Invergordon	137
Levercrest	96
MMI	19
Malaysia Capital	£6⅝
Midland Radio	102
Paramount	9½
Pittencrieff	85 –1
Pelican Gp	28 –1
Proteus Intl	91
Seton Healthcare	141
St James Place	65
Smaller IT	66 –2
Stand Platform	175 –5
Tr Euro Gwth	85 –1
Utd Energy	1¼
Utd Uniform	98
Unichem	117
Wig Tpe App	179 +1

● *See main prices page for Electricity shares*

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cattles Hldgs N/P	3 –½
Control Tech N/P	8 –7
Tuskar Res N/P	¼

(Issue price in brackets).

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	568.6	–0.1	–32.6	0.0	–23.5	0.0	–18.7
(free)	108.7	–0.1	–32.6	–0.1	–23.4	0.0	–18.7
EAFE	980.8	0.1	–37.0	–0.1	–31.3	0.3	–24.0
(free)	100.8	0.1	–37.1	–0.2	–31.4	0.3	–24.1
Europe	587.7	–0.2	–22.8	0.0	–20.0	–0.1	–6.8
(free)	127.3	–0.2	–22.2	–0.3	–19.6	–0.1	–6.1
Nth America	411.7	–0.5	–23.5	–0.4	–7.7	–0.4	–7.7
Nordic	1055.8	–0.3	–32.2	–0.4	–26.9	–0.2	–18.2
(free)	173.2	–0.2	–26.4	–0.3	–21.1	–0.1	–11.2
Pacific	2178.5	0.4	–45.1	–0.1	–38.2	0.5	–33.7
Far East	3159.5	0.5	–45.4	–0.1	–38.9	0.6	–34.1
Australia	227.0	–1.0	–34.6	–1.4	–20.0	–0.8	–21.1
Austria	1272.4	0.4	–14.4	0.7	–8.9	0.5	3.3
Belgium	699.6	0.5	–28.9	0.8	–25.9	0.7	–14.3
Canada	419.9	–0.2	–30.1	–0.3	–15.9	0.0	–15.6
Denmark	1037.5	0.4	–21.2	0.4	–16.9	0.6	–4.9
Finland	64.5	–0.3	–44.1	–0.4	–39.9	–0.2	–32.5
(free)	85.0	0.1	–43.0	0.0	–38.7	0.2	–31.2
France	572.7	1.0	–29.2	1.4	–25.0	1.1	–14.5
Germany	672.4	0.1	–26.7	0.6	–22.0	0.3	–11.6
Hong Kong	1902.2	–0.9	–14.2	–0.8	3.3	–0.7	3.5
Italy	254.7	0.4	–33.9	0.8	–29.3	0.5	–20.3
Japan	3317.5	0.6	–46.2	0.0	–39.9	0.7	–35.1
Netherlands	734.5	–0.6	–22.3	–0.2	–17.4	–0.5	–6.3
New Zealand	51.7	0.3	–49.9	0.4	–39.4	0.5	–39.5
Norway	1072.1	–3.5	–20.1	–3.6	–14.6	–3.3	–3.6
(free)	189.1	–2.8	–19.1	–2.9	–13.4	–2.6	–2.3
Sing/Malay	1444.5	–1.9	–27.6	–1.7	–19.9	–1.8	–12.6
Spain	160.0	–0.6	–32.4	–0.5	–29.2	–0.5	–18.4
Sweden	1104.5	0.4	–37.0	0.2	–31.3	0.5	–24.0
(free)	161.3	0.5	–33.4	0.3	–27.3	0.6	–19.6
Switzerland	*701.1*	*–1.4*	*–23.3*	*–0.7*	*–24.0*	*–1.2*	*–7.5*
(free)	106.8	–1.4	–23.5	–0.8	–24.2	–1.3	–7.7
UK	630.3	–0.6	–12.6	–0.6	–12.6	–0.5	5.5
USA	372.5	–0.5	–22.9	–0.4	–7.0	–0.4	–7.0

(lc) Local currency.*

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

GEC (*169)	160	13	22	24	4	6	9½
	180	4	10½	14	15	16	21
	200	2	4½	7	32	32	35
Hanson (*182)	180	10	18	22	5½	8½	11½
	200	3½	9	13	20	21	23
	220	1	4	-	40	40	-
LASMO (*371)	390	15	26	38	25	35	37
	420	5	16	28	52	52	65
	460	3	9	16	92	92	92
P & O (*523)	460	74	85	92	4	14	19
	500	42	57	68	13	28	34
	550	16	29	45	40	57	62
Pilkington (*174)	140	36	42	43	2	3	5
	160	18	27	27	3½	8	13
	180	7	16	18	13	17	23

FT-SE INDEX (*2118)

	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250
Calls						
Jan	150	110	80	50	29	16
Feb	182	145	110	81	60	40
Mar	200	165	132	103	78	60
Apr	225	193	162	133	107	85
Jun	252	-	186	-	132	-
Puts						
Jan	20	28	44	69	99	145
Feb	39	50	69	89	123	158
Mar	53	65	82	100	135	168
Apr	62	77	95	118	145	177
Jun	75	-	110	-	159	-

January 3, 1991 Total: 30316 Calls 16526 Puts 13790 FT-SE: Calls 7198 Puts 3852

*Underlying security price.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 17	January 4	March 27	April 8

Call options were taken out on: 3/1/91 Aran Energy, Next, Tuskar Res. Put: Ratners.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 94.1 (day's range 93.8-94.1).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9410-1.9495	1.9470-1.9480	1.10-1.09pr	3.06-3.04pr
Montrl	2.2409-2.2536	2.2439-2.2480	0.58-0.54pr	1.05-0.98pr
Amstrdm	3.2648-3.2843	3.2807-3.2843	1⅜-1¼pr	3½-3⅜pr
Brussels	59.59-60.14	59.77-60.10	23-18pr	60-53pr
Copnhgn	11.1336-11.2107	11.1855-11.2107	3¾-3⅛pr	10⅜-8⅝pr
Dublin	1.0869-1.0885	1.0875-1.0885	33-28pr	75-66pr
Frankft	2.8934-2.9096	2.9049-2.9084	1¼-1⅛pr	3¼-3pr
Lisbon	256.79-260.26	258.95-260.06	1⅜-⅝pr	1⅜-⅝pr
Madrid	184.10-185.11	184.38-185.06	2-10ds	25-37ds
Milan	2177.80-2195.40	2190.38-2195.40	4-3pr	10-8pr
Oslo	11.3413-11.4046	11.3705-11.3958	2⅝-2⅜pr	6¾-6⅜pr
Paris	*9.8486-9.8918*	*9.8732-9.8880*	*3⅜-3⅛pr*	*8⅜-8⅜pr*
Stckhlm	10.8599-10.9289	10.8896-10.9146	¼-⅛pr	⅛-⅜ds
Tokyo	259.03-259.67	259.34-259.67	1⅜-1⅛pr	3⅜-3⅛pr
Vienna	20.32-20.49	20.42-20.47	8⅝-7⅝pr	23¼-20pr
Zurich	2.4544-2.4694	2.4659-2.4691	1¼-1pr	3⅛-2⅞pr

Source: Extel

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	11405.6-11430.9
Australia dollar	2.4945-2.4991
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	335.460-336.606
Cyprus pound	0.83-0.84
Finland marka	6.9725-7.0325
Greece drachma	303.15-306.35
Hong Kong dollar	15.1525-15.1623
India rupee	34.96-35.38
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.2602-5.2650
Mexico peso	5620-5720
New Zealand dollar	3.2763-3.2836
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3842-3.3874
S Africa rand (fin)	6.6061-6.7235
S Africa rand (com)	4.9293-4.9377
U A E dirham	n/a

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.7845-1.7860
Singapore	1.7404-1.7411
Malaysia	2.7052-2.7062
Australia	1.2828-1.2845
Canada	1.1522-1.1532
Sweden	5.5980-5.6030
Norway	5.8420-5.8470
Denmark	5.7475-5.7525
W Germany	1.4933-1.4940
Switzerland	1.2651-1.2658
Netherlands	1.6830-1.6840
France	5.0730-5.0780
Japan	133.30-133.40
Italy	1124.0-1125.0
Belgium (Com)	30.74-30.79
Hong Kong	7.7925-7.7935
Portugal	132.60-132.80
Spain	94.90-95.00
Austria	10.48-10.51

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rates Jan 26, 1991 to Feb 25, 1991 Scheme I: 14.54%. Schemes II & III: 15.09%. Reference rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990 Scheme IV & V: 13.843%.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 14 Low 13¾ Week fixed: 14¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buying: 2 mth 13 19/32; 3 mth 13 11/32. Selling: 2 mth 13 9/16; 3 mth: 13 5/16.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	13 23/32-22/32	13¾-13 19/32	13⅝-13 11/32	12 9/16-17/32	
Trade Bills (Dis):	14 13/32	14¼	14	13 3/16	
Interbank:	14 3/16-14 1/16	14 1/16-14	14-13 15/16	13⅞-13 7/16	12 15/16-12¾
(Overnight: open 14¾, close 4.					
Local Authority Deps:	14 3/16	n/a	14 1/32	13 7/16	12⅞
Sterling CDs:	14 3/16-14⅛	14⅛-14	14-13 15/16	13⅞-13¾	12⅞-12 13/16
Dollar CDs:	7.32-7.27	7.32-7.27	7.32-7.27	7.30-7.25	7.33-7.28
Building Society CDs:	14 5/16-14 3/16	14 3/16-14 1/16	14 1/16-14	13⅞-13¾	13-12⅞

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	7 5/16-6 15/16	7⅝-7 3/16	7⅝-7 3/16	7⅝-7 3/16	7¼-6⅜
Deutschemark:	8⅝-8¾	8 15/16-13/16	9 1/16-9 3/16	9½-9⅜	8½-7½
French Franc:	9⅝-9⅜	9 15/16-13/16	10 3/16-1/16	10 7/16-5/16	10-9
Swiss Franc:	8 15/16-13/16	8 11/16-8 9/16	8⅜-8⅜	8 11/16-8 9/16	8-7
Yen:	8 3/16-7 15/16	8 3/16-8 1/16	8¼-8⅛	7⅝-7¼	7¼-6⅜

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open $387.80-388.20 Close: $386.00-386.50

High: $387.80-388.20 Low: $383.50-384.00

Platinum: $412.00 (£211.60) Silver: $4.165 (£2.14)

Palladium: $82.00 (£42.10)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 21266	Mar 91	2156.0	2185.0	2144.0	2162.0	4462
	Jun 91	2193.0	2193.0	2192.0	2196.5	21
	Sep 91					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 119636	Mar 91	87.26	87.34	87.24	87.32	27447
	Jun 91	88.09	88.18	88.09	88.17	8578
	Sep 91	88.63	88.64	88.59	88.63	2141
Three Month Eurodollar Previous open interest: 31284	Mar 91	92.85	92.89	92.85	92.87	2599
	Jun 91	92.99	93.05	92.99	93.03	2503
Three Month Euro DM Previous open interest: 68658	Mar 91	90.68	90.70	90.61	90.61	6827
	Jun 91	90.74	90.77	90.69	90.71	1660
US Treasury Bond *Previous open interest: 6027*	Mar 91	96-24	97-15	96-22	97-05	1439
	Jun 91				*96-23*	0
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 24349	Mar 91	88-27	90-13	88-27	90-01	19424
	Jun 91				90-13	0
Japanese Govt Bond Previous open interest: 552	Mar 91	95.55	96.10	95.55	95.95	24
	Jun 91					0
German Govt Bond Previous open interest: 75909	Mar 91	82.00	82.55	81.97	82.47	35429
	Jun 91	82.55	82.55	82.50	82.59	247
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 1128	Mar 91	89.66	89.68	89.65	89.65	80
	Jun 91	89.97	89.97	89.97	89.96	40

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

COMMODITIES

COCOA		LONDON FOX COFFEE		SUGAR (FOB) C Czarnikow	
Mar	648-647	Jan	610-608	Mar	202.8-02.6
May	679-678	Mar	574-573	May	206.0-05.5
Jul	710-708	May	583-581	Aug	211.0-09.0
Sep	741-739	Jul	600-599	Oct	211.0-09.0
Dec	772-771	Sep	616-615	Dec	216.0-05.0
Mar	798-795	Nov	630-629	Mar	212.8-09.0
May	822-810	Jan	644-639		
Vol: 2314		Vol: 765		Vol: 1484	

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT Close (£/t)		BARLEY Close (£/t)		HI-PRO SOYA Close (£/t)	
Jan	*120.35*	*Jan*	*114.50*	Feb	*112.5-11.0*
Mar	123.55	Mar	118.20	Apr	116.5-15.5
May	127.00	May	119.75	Jun	117.5-16.5
Jun	128.50	Sep	106.30	Aug	119.0-18.0
Sep	108.75	Nov	109.30	Oct	120.0-18.0
Vol:	139	Vol:	10	Vol:	65

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Volume: 149

Feb ($/tonne)	Open: 90.0	Close: 91.5
Apr	133.0	131 4
May	152.5	150.3

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 3

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	76.14	142.52	107.51
(+/–)	–10.05	*–18.39	–4.14
Eng/Wales:	76.14	142.51	107.30
(+/–)	–10.26	–19.93	–4.32
(%)	+23.4	–36.0	–24.5
Scotland:	n/a	142.56	108.68
(+/–)	n/a	–11.60	–3.11
(%)	n/a	–41.1	–7.3

** Estimated dead carcase weight*

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (/kg)

Jan	
Open:	unq
Close:	92.0
Feb	
Open:	unq
Close:	93.8
Mar	
Open:	unq
Close:	95.5

Volume: 10

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1340.0-1345.0	1356.0-1357.0	986250
Lead (£/tonne)	*315.00-315.50*	329.00-329.50	89175
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1255.0-1256.0	1255.0-1256.0	87950
Tin ($/tonne)	5555.0-5560.0	5670.0-5680.0	6380
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1554.0-1555.0	1587.0-1588.0	507900
Nickel ($/tonne):	8325.0-8330.0	8310.0-8320.0	5608

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 6.00pm: News that America had given Iraq a deadline of tomorrow to arrange a meeting caused prices to drop dramatically.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	24.95	–2.35
Brent 15 day (Jan)	25.00	–2.45
Brent 15 day (Feb)	24.85	–2.10
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	25.40	–2.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	24.85	–1.90

PRODUCTS (Buy/sell $/MT) Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas 1.5	252 (–20)	257 (–19)
Gasoil EEC	240 (–22)	242 (–22)
Non EEC 1H Feb	235 (–21)	237 (–21)
Non EEC 1H Mar	223 (–21)	225 (–21)
3.5 Fuel Oil	130 (–5)	132 (–5)
Naphtha	255 (–22)	260 (–20)

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL

Jan	238.50-38.00	May	202.00 SLR
Feb	227.50-26.75	Jun	203.00 SLR
Mar	216.25-15.00	Jul	196.00-95.00
Apr	205.00-04.00		Vol: 9263

BRENT

Jan	25.10-25.20	Mar	24.20-24.30
Feb	24.80-24.90		Vol: n/a

BIFFEX

GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 91	1438	1415	1405
Feb 91	1390	1390	1375
Apr 91	1320	1300	1302
Jul 91	1020	1020	1020

Vol: 142 lots Open interest: 3809

Dry cargo index 1446 –1

FOX MGMI INDEX (5pm prices)

	Bid	Offer
Jan	unq	–
Feb	unq	–
Mar	unq	–
		Vol: –

هكذا من الأصل

It ain't hot in the high street

A curious new convention has arisen to plague the lives of Britain's most miserable band of businessmen, the high street retailers. They have taken to giving the market regular updates on their trading position. This week, Boots set the ball rolling and Ratners and Storehouse have joined the fray. None of the news is good, but the most telling comment came from Easthope & Co, the jewellery business which began life as Next the Jewellers, which went bust four days after Christmas.

Investors in the retail sector hardly need their companies to rub salt into their financial wounds. An investor in Ratners Group needs to know that sales increases were, on the one hand "very satisfactory" but on the other "below best expectations" like he needs a Hogmanay hangover. Even publication of net and gross sales figures, with which Ratners has obliged its followers, tells investors little about profits. It does, however, indicate the close monitoring which the better organised retailers apply to their operations.

From Storehouse, a retailer which, like Next, will now have to accept that the present management is responsible for current trading rather than the long-gone guru, comes the unenlightening news that "sales in December on a comparable basis were in line with last year". But unlike Ratners, which forecasts higher pre-tax profits, Storehouse thinks it unlikely that profits will exceed last year's. Put more bluntly, profits are likely to be down. The analysts, of course, came to this same conclusion without the advantage of a peek at the Christmas sales figures.

It can be argued that these trading statements have become a necessity to make certain that there are no false markets in particular shares, or that analysts who take the trouble to do their homework will not have an advantage over their more slow-footed colleagues.

More likely, however, is that, like the chairmen of the clearing banks who are firing a series of "It ain't half hot mum" statements about bad debts into the public arena, the retailers believe that the more noise they make the more likely it is that Norman Lamont will be pushed to come to their aid with a cut in interest rates. It's worth a try, but publication of sales figures sets a precedent which the industry may regret.

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Air links

There is growing pressure from an aviation industry strapped for cash and passengers for an early decision over the Heathrow routes. The British government has made it clear that routes into Heathrow cannot be bought and sold. They are specific to the carrier allocated the slots. They are non-negotiable. But with several American airlines wishing to complete deals involving Heathrow routes, a chance is presented for the impasse to be broken by the US allowing foreign airlines to own up to 49 per cent of American carriers. In that event, British Airways would need to move rapidly to buy a regional carrier with a strong US domestic feeder network to protect its transatlantic Heathrow business.

On Wall Street, analysts say the most attractive candidate would be the Virginia-based USAir Group which joined with Piedmont almost a year ago in one of the largest mergers in aviation history employing 50,000 staff and the services of more than 400 planes.

British Airways flys a route to Heathrow from one of USAir's main hubs in Pittsburgh, a link established between the companies more than six years ago and from which both have benefited.

But the USAir merger with Piedmont and soaring fuel costs have cut deeply into profits. In the nine months ending September 30, 1990, USAir lost $233 million compared with a net income of $38.5 million for the same period the previous year and a loss of $63 million for the whole of 1989.

BA could pick up a 49 per cent stake in the airline for about $400 million at a reasonable premium over today's share price. The same stake would have cost $800 million before the impact of the jet fuel rise.

USAir has already cut jobs by 3,600, delayed taking some new aircraft from Boeing until 1994/-95, and trimmed passenger growth expectations this year from 6 per cent to between 1 and 2 per cent.

But the potential link would be of enormous benefit to BA. USAir has more departures per day than any other airline in the world after the Soviet nationalised airline Aeroflot. Last year it transported 61.2 million passengers to 175 cities in 36 states, Puerto Rico, Canada the Caribbean and western Europe including five at Baltimore; Charlotte, North Carolina; Dayton, Ohio, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It is, in other words, a major airline.

Its feeds to the BA London flight through Pittsburgh are designed to compete for passengers which would otherwise fly to London out of Chicago or New York. USAir's commuter service USAir Express serves 115 airports in America with 1,500 daily departures and carried 6 million passenger last year, 65 per cent connecting with other USAir flights. In total there are more than 400 flights a day capable of feeding BA flights, which makes a tempting case for a takeover.

King Coal will keep home fires burning yet

OLD King Coal has not been such a merry old soul of late. After a century as Britain's principal source of energy, coal has been forced into retreat by increasing availability of natural gas and environmental concerns that focus on coal's "dirty" image.

Since 1985, the number of collieries operated by the British Coal Corporation has fallen from 170 to 69, and the workforce from 221,000 to 78,000. More closures are on the way.

Yet Lord Haslam, in his valedictory address as chairman of British Coal last month insisted coal will keep its position as Britain's main fuel for power generation well into the next century.

Anyone who has noted the spate of proposals for gas-fired power stations could be forgiven a degree of bafflement.

British Gas predicts that 15 such power stations are likely to be built by the end of the century, providing 7,000-8,000 megawatts of capacity. Of that, about 4,000 mw would replace existing coal plant, and the rest would meet increases in demand.

In addition, so many companies and public sector bodies are investigating construction of small gas-fired combined heat and power (CHP) plants that proponents claim they could account for 10 per cent of British power needs by the turn of the century.

Total generating capacity in mainland Britain is reckoned to be 65,900 mw. Of that, 58.6 per cent is provided by coal-fired plant, including 4,500 mw of coal or oil-fired capacity.

The capacity figures are not the whole picture. In practice, the supply companies are obliged by the government to take as much power as the nuclear stations can produce before the coal plants.

As demand rises, plants are brought on stream in "merit order" with the lowest-cost, most-efficient coal plants providing the backbone.

The merit order system is subject to distortion by a web of supply contracts between individual supply companies and generators, and the restricted capacity of the national grid to transfer power around the country.

The construction of large numbers of gas plants, producing power at lower cost than the cheapest existing coal stations, would pose a grave threat to British Coal's core market. In the year to last March, British Coal sold 78.7 per cent of its total output of 95.2 million tonnes to mainland generators.

A future yet: Coal mining industry remains confident

Although gas is a dearer fuel, combined cycle gas power stations are attractive to generating companies for four principal reasons. They are cheaper to build than existing coal plant, incur lower operating and maintenance bills, and achieve much higher efficiency in converting heat to electricity. In addition, their emissions of nitrous and sulphuric oxides are lower.

But the perceived disadvantages of coal are not necessarily insuperable. Faced with the challenge of gas, British Coal has stepped up research into coal-fired plants which can match gas on both costs and emissions. Much of the work has been conducted by scientists at the Coal Research Establishment (CRE) in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It has been aided by funding from other big coal-burning countries, including America and Germany.

CRE figures suggest that by the end of the century, new-generation coal plants could be almost competitive with gas, without any change in the price of either fuel. In practice, there are strong downward pressures on British coal prices. The outlook for gas prices, which are more subject to international trends, is less certain.

Existing coal plants in Britain rely on the proven technology of pulverised fuel to fire their boilers. In addition, because they burn coal at high temperatures, they need huge flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) plants to meet European Community emission standards. Britain's first FGD plant is not yet complete.

According to CRE figures, the best thermal efficiency likely to be achieved by a medium size pulverised coal generating set, producing 200 mw net of its own operating requirements, is 37.1 per cent. The CRE says that a combined cycle gas plant of 240 mw would achieve 45 per cent, although plants with efficiencies in excess of 50 per cent are being designed.

CRE scientists have evaluated four main alternative coal-burning technologies. Like the combined cycle gas plants, the most promising ones use waste heat from the main turbine to help drive a subsidiary generating set.

Perhaps no less important, they solve the problems of emissions while continuing to burn British coal, which has a medium sulphur content.

The most promising plant, says CRE, uses a "topping cycle" on a pressurised fluidised bed combustion plant. Because it burns coal at lower temperatures than existing pulverised fuel plants, the sulphur is retained in the ash, while other pollutants can be readily removed from coal gas released during combustion.

With such technology, the CRE predicts, a coal-fired plant of 330 mw could achieve an efficiency of 44.8 per cent.

The improvements are reflected in projected operating costs. According to the CRE, such a plant would generate electricity at 2.9p a unit, against 3.5p for a conventional coal station and 2.4p for a natural gas plant.

A 3 mw demonstration plant to prove the system, funded by the International Energy Agency, is being built by British Coal at Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire. But even if successful, it is unlikely a commercial plant on the Grimethorpe model could be available for 10 years.

Coal may be out of fashion as a fuel for power generation, but the long term effects of exposing the British generating industry to market forces have yet to emerge. Domestic coal has many attractions in terms of security of supply. For that reason alone it is unlikely to be supplanted as one of Britain's key fuels.

ROSS TIEMAN

BUSINESS LETTERS

Insurers should lend helping hand

From Mr Peter Tarrant-Willis

Sir, I think your Comment on December 12 was a little unfair.

Chase Manhattan helped Legal & General, General Accident and Commercial Union to lend the "security of the insurance companies" to the collapsed Levitt Group. (Commercial Union made it just in time.)

Disappointed customers of the failed group will be cheered by the ability of these great, old-established companies to recompense them, taking on their duties as part-owners.

There should be no need to submit anyone to long-winded claim procedures to any other compensation fund, surely?

Yours faithfully,

PETER TARRANT-WILLIS
(A Fimbra subscriber),
Life & Pensions Insurance Broker and
Independent Adviser,
108 Mill Lane,
West Hampstead,
NW6.

Putting the selling back into retailing

From Mr Michael J Hudsmith

Sir, With reference to your article "Retail engineers' gain" (December 17).

If "retail engineering" is to be the buzz phrase for retailers, it is to be hoped that its scope encompasses good old fashioned merchanting – buying and selling.

Certainly Epos and other worthwhile information technology, coupled with excellence in final logistics, is bringing some benefit.

Currently, in certain sectors, large price reductions will depress margins swiftly. Were the danger signs not seen earlier in the year or do they highlight an area that the industry has not studied in sufficient depth?

Is it not timely for the "retail engineers" to go right back to basics and re-examine the total process of buying/manufacturing flexibility? We have already seen what has happened on the final distribution cycle. The retailer surely seeks the synergy of excellence in the "whole". This may well mean that some "well founded principles" in buying/manufacture fall under severe "what if" scrutiny.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL J. HUDSMITH,
White Gates,
12 Whitehall Road,
Sittingbourne, Kent.

Misunderstandings about the function of Council of Lloyd's

From Mr Murray Lawrence, retiring chairman, Lloyd's of London

Sir, I have read the letters in your columns (December 18) from Dr John Maxwell and Dr Geoffrey Francis. Dr Maxwell referred to our correspondence relating to an insurance dispute within Lloyd's. This dispute was subject to a formal arbitration whose decision was given early in 1990.

It is not for the Council of Lloyd's to question such proceedings or their findings.

Dr Francis would appear to misunderstand the safeguards in our solvency procedures, which are designed to give unquestioned and unrivalled security to our policyholders.

First, nothing is distributed to our members until the relevant annual account has run for three years.

Second, for each year of account, each and every Name is subject to an annual solvency test under arrangements approved both by the Council of Lloyd's and the Department of Trade and Industry. Losses revealed by these solvency tests must then be covered by each member, so the 1989 losses that were apparent at the end of 1989 were covered for solvency purposes at that time.

Third, the central fund cannot logically be compared to the total assets of an insurance company because the Lloyd's fund comes into play only after the exhaustion of the resources of an individual Member, which stand behind their underwriting at Lloyd's.

Fourth, we cannot forecast centrally what the aggregate profits or losses to the market will be of a year of account but following the AGM in June this year, the press reported widely my warning that 1989 was likely to lead to an overall loss for Lloyd's, the first since 1965-66.

Fifth, I know of no basis for Dr Francis' estimate of the need to find £6 billion over the next three years. Lloyd's currently writes annual gross premiums in the region of £6.5 billion.

I would add this. It is not the task of the Council of Lloyd's to intervene in the commercial aspects of Lloyd's where these relate to the transaction of insurance business in the market or in the agreements which exist between Names and their agents. Its task is to regulate the conduct of all at Lloyd's within the framework of the 1982 Lloyd's Act and the recommendations of the Neill Enquiry into Regulatory Arrangements at Lloyd's. Neill himself commended Lloyd's for what had been achieved between 1982 and 1987; moreover, John Redwood, when parliamentary under-secretary for corporate affairs at the trade and industry department, commended Lloyd's for the efficiency with which we had adopted Neill's recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

MURRAY LAWRENCE,
Chairman,
Lloyd's of London,
1 Lime Street, EC3

Carless companies are not 'ill-fated'

From Mr R.W. Hastings-Dasent

Sir, I refer to the article on Kelt Energy in Tempus, dated December 21, 1990.

I will not comment on the use of the words "ill-fated" to describe Carless in the context of the article, neither do I make any sort of comment on the article *per se*, but, as managing director of Repsol in the UK, which bought the Carless Refining and Marketing and Carless Petroleum elements from Kelt in August 1989, may I say how delighted Repsol are to have these two companies in their family now.

Both companies are fully bearing out the synergies and aspirations foreseen in that purchase in terms of Repsol's long-term internationalisation project.

These two Carless companies were, at the very least, and for different reasons, the most vibrant and organised of the UK Independents in the UK at the time. They are, most certainly not "ill-fated" today.

Yours faithfully,

DICK HASTINGS-DASENT,
Managing Director,
Repsol (UK) Ltd,
5 Prince's Gate,
London,
SW7.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

AEA is talking but not selling

From Dr R.S. Nelson

Sir, In two articles, on December 28 and 29, you referred to our talks with Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) regarding business collaboration.

We did indeed engage in discussions, as we do with many other companies, but the selling of all or part of AEA Technology's business operations was never on the agenda for either of us.

Such talks often result in collaboration with industrial companies which benefit our international business.

Yours faithfully,

R.S. NELSON,
Managing Director,
Industrial Business Group
AEA Technology,
Corporate Headquarters,
Harwell Laboratory B329,
Oxfordshire.

Draconian powers of DTI inspectors

From Mr Philip Ling

Sir, Asil Nadir is fortunate to be arrested at a time when the powers of the Serious Fraud Office have been clearly defined by the Criminal Justice Act of 1987.

Whilst he will have been compelled to answer questions put forward by the SFO (there being no right of silence) his answers cannot now be used by the police or the director of public prosecutions in their case against him.

This is entirely correct since it is a fundamental premise of British justice that a defendant in any criminal court should have a right of silence.

Seemingly, according to Sir John Nott's article in *The Times* of December 11, this principle has been circumvented in earlier cases where the draconian powers of the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors have procured incriminating evidence which the police and DPP then used in court.

As Sir John observes, this has resulted in white collar suspects being treated less fairly than terrorists, murderers or rapists.

Compared to the Guinness defendants Asil Nadir is indeed fortunate, and will, we must hope, have a fairer trial.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP LING,
Haleworth House,
Tite Hill,
Egham, Surrey.

Britain must compete with US to keep managed futures industry

From Mr John Royden

Sir, Recently, in a consultative paper on futures and options unit trusts, the Securities and Investments Board said that in drawing up proposals for how these products might be regulated, it had tried to strike the right balance between the need to ensure that investors in these products are properly protected, and the need to ensure that the industry can develop genuinely new products offering a wider range of invesment strategies for investors.

As a participant in the managed currency and futures industry with about £120 million under management we find it unfortunate that the SIB has not also considered that the industry in the UK will never develop these new products if other regulatory environments allow a more flexible yet still credible regulation: All fund managers will seek to establish their collective investment schemes in these other countries.

At present there are no other countries immediately seeking to regulate futures funds which might also be allowed to be promoted in the UK. However the growth of the global futures industry in terms of new exchanges in different countries and new contracts traded together with a thawing of fund managers' dislikes towards derivative markets, will probably give rise to more countries developing a structure for regulating futures collective investment schemes in the future.

The effort to lower barriers to free trade was hampered by the recent failure of the GATT talks. However it would appear that from a global perspective the move to reducing barriers to free trade in financial products is now picking up momentum. A large impetus is coming from the EEC's banking directives and the move to 1992.

The leading country in the field of managed futures funds is the USA. The CFTC has adopted the principle of requiring the thorough and complete disclosure of all information which might possibly be of relevance to any investor. The fund managers are then able to trade the markets as they deem fit. This system of regulation allows a much greater degree of flexibility than the regulations proposed by the SIB.

The danger as we see it is that if other countries decide to follow the US standard of making all the information needed available to the investor followed by a clear "caveat emptor" policy then the greater scope of investment powers enjoyed by the US industry and which might be enjoyed by other countries will inevitably lead to greater levels of profitability and so probably to greater levels of sales from these other countries.

If SIB and the DTI and ultimately Parliament wish London to retain its position as the centre of European finance then they will have to recognise the existence of other competing regulatory environments and their probable impact on business.

It is this point which the SIB have failed to take into consideration and which we would urge them to take up in the future: If SIB does not take these points into consideration then SIB may not have a managed futures industry to regulate.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN ROYDEN,
Director,
ECU Futures PLC,
2 Edinburgh Gate,
Knightsbridge, SW1

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Uphill racer

RICHARD Williamson, the top-rated City skier who joined the UK equity desk at Williams de Broë last July, is about to lay his reputation on the line. As honorary secretary of the Stock Exchange Ski Club, he leads a party of budding aces to Switzerland this month for *Interbourse '91*, the annual ski-ing competition held between stock exchanges from around the world. Despite an impressive list of competitors from the Square Mile – including Mark Gachoud of Williams de Broë, who is tipped as the best skier in London – Williamson is hoping for some last-minute entrants to swell the ranks. "I would like some more stock-broking racing talent to get in touch," says Williamson, who adds that either he or Mark Abbott of Goldman Sachs, the team captain, will be happy to provide details. Teams from as far afield as Taiwan and Cincinatti are due in Grindelwald from January 19-26 for the event, which has been running for 23 years. Last year, the London stock exchange was placed fifth, its best result in eight years, and Williamson hopes for a similar performance at this month's competition.

CORRECTION in the Daily Courier, *of Winfield, Kansas: "Aggie Callison, a Winfield High School junior, will sing the part of the youth in Mendelssohn's* Elijah. *She will replace her cousin, Troy Clark, an eighth grader, who has suddenly become a tenor."*

Chivalry rewarded

FIRMS of accountants have spent years trying to convince the public they are not grey and boring. So it is refreshing that one of their rank has been given the recognition they deserve – a vote of thanks from the Order of St John. The gesture, the first given by the order in London for four years, goes to Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte for "outstanding service". Much of the credit is due to Michael Roberts, a partner, who has given up his suite on the top floor of the firm's Queen Victoria Street offices several times for use as a control centre by the St John Ambulance service during the Lord Mayor's show. "They used to put a transmitter on the roof during the procession," says Mr Roberts, who has helped the order with its audit in the past. A scroll of thanks has been was presented to John Bullock, joint senior partner.

Inside jobs

WHITE collar criminals defrauded India's state-owned banks of 50.22 billion rupees (£1.4 billion) last year, according to Digvijay Singh, the deputy finance minister. Singh told the parliament's upper house yesterday that the losses were linked to 1,584 incidents of bank fraud last year. But he failed to mention how much of that amount had been recovered by the financial institutions. In a move to curb such losses, the Reserve Bank of India, the country's central bank, has issued a set of guidelines, urging the banks to strengthen any control mechanisms already in place. Perhaps fortunately, most financial institutions in India are insured against fraud as well as robbery. Another one for Lloyd's?

AMERICAN researchers have spent the last six months trying to find out which most unusual laws and regulations are still in force. They discovered that it is still illegal to be seen drinking soup in public in New Jersey, mount a bus within four hours of eating garlic in Gary, Indiana and to serve wine in a teacup in Topeka, Kansas.

Pyramid selling

THOSE oposed to the idea of privatisation should spare a thought for the humble citizens of Egypt, where just about everything – hotels and shops included – is owned by the state. Realising that it may be wise to pass these and larger enterprises into private hands, and the threat of war in the Gulf notwithstanding, the Egyptian government has turned to Britain for help. A team from British Invisibles – the former British Invisible Export Council – flies to Egypt today to set the ball rolling. The team is lead by Andrew Buxton, vice chairman and managing director of Barclays, who sits on the board of British Invisibles and is a frequent visitor to the Middle East. "They are interested in the actual mechanics of how to go about privatisation," says Buxton, who is joined, among others, by Peter Benson of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte. After a weekend of seminars, the team is due back on Monday.

JON ASHWORTH

Profis at Gibs Mewall

Gibbs Mew, Wiltshire brewer and erty group quoted on th sted Securities Market ed a drop in pre-tax pro m £894,000 to £567,00 e six months to end-Se r.

The es increased related ts by 14 per operati nance charges brewing and cent. by 7 per cent. were w from £8.16 Turn 38 million.

mill s will receive an Slend of 3p (2p). int share fell from Ea 33p.

o merge ortsmouth

HAM & Gloucesilding society that concluded mergers r other societies sets totalled more billion, has agreed ith the Portsmouth Society, subject to s' approval.

Portsmouth's 83,000 s will receive a bonus per cent of their s and its 20,000 boran 0.25 per cent dis on mortgage rates for nonths.

EI wins order

EI International Combustion, part of Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, has won a £20 million order for three waste heat recovery steam generators. The £250 million, *650 megawatt power station is* being built by NEI ABB Gas Turbines, a joint venture between NEI and ASEA Brown Boveri, the Swedish-Swiss engineering group.

Offer shunned

A £2.1 million placing and open offer by Geevor, the mining group, was shunned by most existing shareholders, who applied for just 0.88 per cent of the new shares. The balance of 9.55 million shares was placed with institutional and other investors. Existing Geevor shares traded unchanged at 17p, against an offer price of 25p.

STOCK MARKET

Concern over US interests make building shares suffer

BRITISH building and construction companies with interests in the United States face a bleak 1991, according to a number of leading securities houses.

Warburg Securities says that the recession is biting hard in the United States. The sector has also been hit by the Middle Eastern troubles and the severe problems of the savings and loans institutions which have made fund raising difficult.

Warburg is thought to have become bearish about **Barratt Developments**, down 3p at 97p, **Costain**, 1p cheaper at 186p, **John Laing**, 5p lower at 260p, and **Taylor Woodrow**, 7p easier at 208p.

BZW says that a recovery may not be seen until 1992 and that share prices in the sector are still too high.

Hoare Govett says that, contrary to popular belief, there is evidence that the Californian housing market has traditionally withstood any recession. West Coast prices have held up well compared with the rest of the country so far *this time, but* there are doubts whether this can continue. As a result, the broker has downgraded both Barratt and **Beazer**, which was 1p firmer at 100p.

The rest of the equity market halved a 22-point fall, helped by the latest Middle East peace initiative. The FT-SE 100 index closed 10.5 down at 2,117.8 on a turnover of 381 million shares with dealers still worried by the recession. The FT index of 30 shares lost 7.2 at 1,648.5.

A strong pound and a firm start to trading *in the American* bond market left government securities sporting gains of £1¼, after briefly touching £1½, despite the fading hopes of an early cut in bank base rates.

The oil sector, already depressed by a flat oil price, had to swallow some large lines of stock. These included 3.5 million shares in **BP**, down 7p at 328p, 4.25 million shares in **Shell**, 8p lower at 453p, 1.5 million shares in **Lasmo**, 9p off at 371p, and 600,000 *shares in* **Enterprise**, *10p* cheaper at 601p. Smith New Court was the broker handling the lines of stock.

RTZ, the *mining finance* group, fell 18p to 430p after Warburg Securities cut its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year from £505 million to £450 million, blaming lower metal prices.

Shares in **Ibstock Johnsen**, the brickmaker, dropped 4p to 95p after Smith New Court reduced its profit forecast for this year by £8 million to £17 million.

Storehouse, the BhS, Habitat and Mothercare stores group, fell 3p to 110p after cautious comments about Christmas trading. Michael Julien, the chief executive, said that it had made a slow start in November and the pick-up in December had failed to make up lost ground.

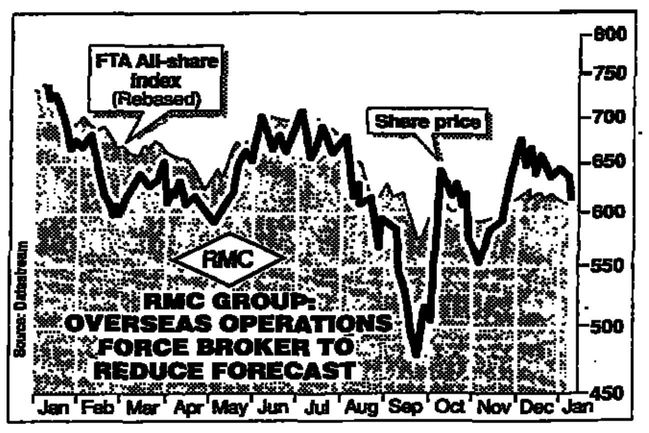
Sales were ahead of last year but pre-tax profits, before exceptional items, were unlikely to exceed last year's figure.

Ratners, the jewellery retailer, soothed market fears by announcing that it was confident of increasing its pre-tax profits for the year. The shares rose 7p to 165p.

There were further profit downgradings for **Boots**, the shares of which recovered an early fall to close 4p dearer at 312p, in the wake of Wednesday's trading statement.

Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, and BZW have both reduced their profit estimates. BZW has cut its forecast to £350 million, in line with Hoare Govett this week.

MICHAEL CLARK



RMC GROUP: OVERSEAS OPERATIONS FORCE BROKER TO REDUCE FORECAST

RMC fell 20p to 623p. BZW has cut its forecast for this year by £13 million to £205 million after meeting the company before Christmas. Mark Stockdale, an analyst, made the decision because of dull operations overseas, including America and France. But operating profits from Germany are expected to reach almost £90 million. He says that the shares are expensive for the short-term.

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
ADT	740	BOC	511	CU	647	Guinness	811	Lonrho	1,502	R&C	92	Slough	269	Thames Wtr	606
Abbey Nat	970	Boots	2,585	Cookson	1,973	Hamm 'A'	41	Lucas	1,893	Redland	677	Smith & N	1,444	Thorn EMI	252
Alld-Lyons	2,364	BPB	1,014	Courtaulds	460	Hanson	2,936	Manpower	160	Reed	984	SK Beech	1,801	Trafalgar	1,286
Amstrad	1,815	Br Aero	893	Dalgety	408	Do Wts	289	M&S	3,448	Reuters	357	Do Uts	140	THF	2,349
Anglian	336	Br Airways	2,943	Dixons	4,579	H & C	1,084	Maxwell Cm	218	RMC Gp	525	Smith WH	433	Ultramar	1,536
Argos	393	Br Gas	3,220	ECC	535	Hawker	160	MB Group	804	RTZ	2,817	Smiths Ind	148	Unigate	513
ASDA	1,853	Br Land	597	Enterprise	1,132	Hillsdown	769	MEPC	439	R-Royce	1,969	STC	8	Unilever	695
AB Foods	772	Br Petrol	6,604	Ferranti	1,795	IMI	490	Midland	396	Rothmn 'B'	293	Stan Chart	177	United Bis	571
Argyll	1,068	Br Steel	3,875	Fisons	1,874	ICI	1,337	Nat West	3,766	Royal Bank	736	Storehse	1,405	United News	386
BAA	936	Br Telecm	3,659	FKI	159	Inchcape	49	Next	9,092	Royal Ins	221	Sun Allnce	1,054	Wellcome	591
BET	2,029	Bunzl	2,275	Gen Acc	779	Kingfisher	2,711	Nth Food	392	Saatchi	219	Sun Life	37	Welsh	423
BTR	1,750	Burmah Cast	254	GEC	2,858	Lasmo	2,879	P&O	813	Sainsbury	1,182	T & N	36	Wessex	59
BAT	960	Burton	1,105	Glaxo	1,423	Ladbroke	881	Pearson	250	Scot & N	368	TI Group	427	Whitbrd	187
Barclays	1,196	C&W	1,015	Glynwed	299	Land Sec	322	Pilkington	1,504	Sears	2,170	Tarmac	1,438	Wgn Teape	701
Bass	1,173	Cadbury	433	Granada	892	Laporte	60	Prudential	4,683	Sedgwick	215	Tate & Lyle	1,035	Williams	859
Beazer	1,605	Calor	210	Grand Met	2,798	L&G	1,366	Racal	1,916	Severn Trnt	2,200	Taylor Wood	725	Willis Cor	3,118
Berisfd Intl	3,542	Carlton	1,331	GUS 'A'	38	Lloyds	804	Racal Tele	630	Shell	6,199	TSB	1,416	Wimpey G	103
BICC	321	Coats	545	GRE	2,436	Lloyds Abb	486	Rk Hovis	674	Siebe	1,530	Tesco	747		
Blue Circle	764			GKN	857			Rank	725						

Dow drops despite oil price fall

New York

BLUE chips were in a narrow range at mildly lower levels in moderate mid-morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was 3 points lower at 2,607.64.

As on Wednesday, stocks were unable to gain support from a strong bond market and lower crude oil prices. Investors continued to concentrate on the softening American economy.

● **Sydney** — Industrial stocks suffered in thin trading as institutions battened down the hatches before the January 15 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait. The All-Industrials index slumped 18.7 points to 1,937.6. *(Reuter)*

MAJOR INDICIES

New York:
Dow Jones .... 2591.58 (−19.06)*
S&P Composite .... 323.97 (−2.48)*
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... Closed
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 3004.88 (−26.46)
FT-SE Eurotrack ...... 937.41 (+6.30)
Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 79.5 (+0.7)
Sydney: AO .... 1273.0 (−12.8)
Frankfurt: DAX .... 1366.65 (+0.55)
Brussels:
General .... 4920.48 (+6.54)
Paris: CAC .... 406.84 (−2.15)
Zurich: SKA Gen .... 459.0 (−5.1)
London:
FT.—A All-Share ..... 1019.78 (−5.35)
FT.— "500" .... 1124.39 (−6.9)
FT. Gold Mines .... 155.5 (−1.4)
FT. Fixed interest .... 90.81 (+0.22)
FT. Govt Secs .... 82.91 (+0.74)
Bargains 30790
SEAQ Volume 381.2m
USM (Datastream) .. .. 109.65 (−2.02)

*Denotes latest trading price

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Ratners Group .... 164½p (+7p)
Pittard Garnar .... 55p (+12p)
Chesterfield .... 525p (+15p)
Grainger .... 150p (+10p)
Hammerson 'A' .... 632½p (+10p)

FALLS:
Taylor Woodrow .... 207½p (−7p)
Tarmac .... 235p (−8p)
Steetley .... 341½p (−9p)
Redland .. .. 554½p (−10p)
RMC Group .... 622½p (−20p)
Meyer Int .... 369½p (−7p)
Glaxo .... 825p (−14p)
Laird .... 187½p (−7½p)
Attwoods .... 204½p (−6p)
Bank of Ireland .... 143½p (−8p)
Frogmore .... 304p (−12p)
Rothmans 'B' .... 736½p (−10p)
BAA .... 402½p (−7p)
Rechem .... 540p (−8p)
Rank Org .... 607½p (−11p)
Closing prices

WALL STREET

	Jan 3 midday	Jan 2 close		Jan 3 midday	Jan 2 close		Jan 3 midday	Jan 2 close
Abbott Lab	42¾	43¾	Enron	52½	54	Oryx Enrgy	38⅝	38
Aetna Life	37⅝	37⅝	Entergy	22¾	22¾	Pac Ent	38⅝	39⅝
Ahmanson	13½	13¾	Ethyl	24	24⅝	Pac Gas Elec	25⅝	24¾
Air Prods	54½	54⅝	Exxon	50⅝	50⅝	Pac Telesis	43⅝	44⅝
Albertsons	35½	35⅝	Fed NMA	35	34⅝	Paccar	31¾	31⅝
Alcan Al	19⅝	19½	Fedrl Exprs	34½	34	Pacificorp	21⅝	21⅝
Alco Stand	32½	32⅝	Flt Norstar	10⅝	10¾	Pall	34⅝	35⅝
Allied Signal	28⅝	28	Fluor	34¾	35⅝	Paramount	43⅝	42
Alumin CA	58	58	FMC	30⅝	31⅝	Parker-Hanfn	24	24
Am Brands	39⅝	40⅝	Ford Motor	26⅝	26⅝	Penney	44⅝	45
Am Cyanmd	51¾	51½	FPL	29⅝	29⅝	Pennzoil	66⅝	65⅝
Am EPC	27⅝	27⅝	Fst Chicago	16⅝	16⅝	Pepsico	26⅝	25⅝
Am General	30⅝	30⅝	Fst Intrsta	22⅝	23⅝	Pfizer	78⅝	80⅝
Am Home	51⅝	52⅝	Fst Union	15	15⅝	Philps Pet	25⅝	25⅝
Am Intl	74	74⅝	Gannett	35⅝	35⅝	Philps Elec	17⅝	17⅝
Am Medical	5⅝	5½	Gen Cinema	20	19⅝	Phlp Morris	50⅝	50⅝
Am Stores	54	54¾	Gen Elec	56⅝	56⅝	*Phlps Dodge*	59	59⅝
Amax	21⅝	21½	Gen Mills	46⅝	47⅝	Pitney Bow	39⅝	39⅝
Amer Hess	45	46¾	Gen Motors	34¾	34¾	Plcr Dome	16¾	16⅝
Amerltech	66⅝	65⅝	Gen RE	89	91	PNC Fncl	22	21⅝
Amex	20⅝	20⅝	Gen Signal	37⅝	37⅝	Pnhdle Estn	12⅝	12⅝
Amoco	51¾	51¾	Genentech	n/a	n/a	Polaroid	23⅝	23⅝
AMP	42⅝	42⅝	Genuine Pts	37⅝	37⅝	PPG Inds	44⅝	45⅝
AMR	46	47½	Georgia-Pac	37⅝	37	Prctr Gmble	85⅝	85⅝
Anheuser-B	41¾	42⅝	Gillette	59⅝	60¾	Price	38	38⅝
Apple Comp	43⅝	43⅝	Goodrich	38¾	38¾	Primerica	22⅝	23⅝
Archer-Dan	22¾	22⅝	Goodyear	18⅝	19	Pub Service	26⅝	26⅝
Arkla	19⅝	20	Grace	24	23⅝	Quaker Oats	51⅝	52
Armstrong	25⅝	24⅝	Greyhound	25⅝	25	Ralston Pur	97⅝	98⅝
Asarco	27⅝	27¾	Gt Atlantic	43⅝	44	Raychem	21¾	21¾
Ashland Oil	26⅝	26⅝	Gt Western	12	12⅝	Raytheon	68⅝	69
AT&T	30	29⅝	GTE	29	28⅝	Reebok	11⅝	11⅝
Atlan Richfld	120¾	122⅝	Halibrtn	44¾	45⅝	Roadway	38⅝	38⅝
Auto DP	54½	54⅝	Heinz	34	34⅝	Rockwell	26⅝	27¾
Avery Intl	21¾	20⅝	Hercules	34	34	Rohm Hass	35⅝	35
Avon Prod	27⅝	26⅝	Hershey Fd	37	37⅝	Royal Dutch	77⅝	78⅝
Baltimore	27⅝	27⅝	Hewlett Pkd	32⅝	31¾	Rubbermaid	41¾	41⅝
Banc One	27⅞	27⅝	Hilton Htl	37	36⅝	Rynlds Mtl	56	55⅝
Bankamerica	26	26¾	Home Depot	37⅝	38⅝	Safeco	35	33⅝
Bard	16⅝	17	Homestake	18⅝	19⅝	Salomon	23⅝	23⅝
Barnett Bl	16⅝	19½	Honeywell	43⅝	43⅝	Sant Fe Pac	6⅝	6⅝
Bausch Lmb	69⅝	70⅝	Houston Ind	36⅝	36⅝	Sara Lee	30⅝	31⅝
Baxter Intl	27	27⅝	Hsehld Ind	32	32⅝	Schecorp	37⅝	37⅝
Bec Dickin	74⅝	74⅝	Humana	41½	41½	Schlumbgr	56⅝	56⅝
Bell Atlan	52⅝	52⅝	IBM	113⅝	112½	Schrg-Plgh	42⅝	43⅝
Bellsouth	54⅝	54⅝	IF&F	72⅝	73⅝	Scott Papr	37¾	37⅝
Bkr Hughes	25	25¾	Illinois TW	48	48⅝	Seagram	86½	86⅝
Black Decker	9⅝	9⅝	Inco	25⅝	25¾	Sears Rbk	25⅝	26
Block	42¾	43¾	Ingsol-Rand	38⅝	38⅝	Security Pac	20¾	20⅝
Bnkrs Tst NY	43⅝	43⅝	Inland Steel	24⅝	24⅝	Shrwn-Wlms	38⅝	38⅝
Boeing	45	44⅝	Intel	39¾	38⅝	Skyline	14⅝	15⅝
Boise Casc	25	25¾	Intl Paper	52¾	52⅝	Snap-on Tls	31¾	31⅝
Borden	29¾	29⅝	ITT	46⅝	46⅝	Southern	27¾	27⅝
Brist-Myer	65⅝	66⅝	James River	24⅝	24⅝	St Paul	60⅝	62
Browng-Fer	22⅝	22⅝	Johnsn Jhsn	70⅝	70	Stanley Wk	28⅝	29
Burl Nth	26⅝	26⅝	K Mart	27⅝	27⅝	Stone Cntr	11⅝	11⅝
CAI	7⅝	7⅝	Kellogg	74⅝	75	Sun Co	29	27⅝
Campbell Sp	56	57½	Kerr-McGee	44¾	44½	*Suntst Bk*	21⅝	21¾
Cap Cities	448⅝	458	Kimbly-Clrk	81½	82⅝	Super Valu	23⅝	23⅝
Capital HC	36⅝	38	Knight-Rddr	44¾	45	SW Bell	55⅝	55⅝
Carolina	46⅝	46⅝	Lilly	72⅝	72¾	Syntex	56⅝	58¾
Caterpillar	46⅝	46⅝	Limited	18⅝	18⅝	Sysco	31¾	32⅝
CBS	172¾	172⅝	Lin Brdcstg	60⅝	61⅝	Tandem	11⅝	11⅝
Central SW	43⅝	43⅝	Lincln Nat	40	41	Tandy	28⅝	28⅝
Champion	24¾	25⅝	Litton Ind	76⅝	76⅝	Tele-comm	12⅝	12⅝
Chase Man	10⅝	10⅝	Lockheed	31⅝	32⅝	Teledyne	15¾	15⅝
Chem Bnkg	11	11¾	Louis-Pac	27	27⅝	Temple-In	30⅝	29⅝
Chevron	71⅝	72⅝	Manu Hano	21¾	21¾	Tenneco	46⅝	47¾
Chrysler	12⅝	12⅝	Marriott	10⅝	10⅝	Texaco	59	59⅝
Chubb	52⅝	53½	Marsh Mclen	75⅝	76⅝	Texas Inst	37	37⅝
Cigna	38⅝	40	Martin Mar	43⅝	43⅝	Texas Util	36⅝	36⅝
Citicorp	13	12⅝	Masco	17⅝	17⅝	Textron	25	25⅝
Clbrne Liz	29⅝	29⅝	May Dept	41⅝	42	Time Wrnr	87⅝	86⅝
Clorox	37⅝	37⅝	Maytag	11	10⅝	Times Mirr	27⅝	26⅝
Cmwlth Edis	34⅝	34⅝	MCA	69⅝	69⅝	Timken	21	20⅝
CNA Fincl	68	68⅝	McDnl Doug	37	37⅝	Torchmark	48⅝	48⅝
Coastal	30⅝	32	McDonalds	28⅝	28⅝	Toys R Us	23⅝	23⅝
Coca-Cola	45⅝	45⅝	McGraw-Hill	51¾	52⅝	Transam	31¾	31⅝
Colgate-Pal	70⅝	71⅝	MCI Com	19⅝	19⅝	Travelers	17	16⅝
Columb Gas	45⅝	46⅝	Mead	25	25¾	Tribune	34⅝	34⅝
Compaq	57⅝	56⅝	Medtronic	81½	84⅝	TRW	35⅝	36⅝
Conagra	35⅝	36⅝	Melville	40⅝	41⅝	Tyco Lab	41⅝	42⅝
Cons Edis	23⅝	23⅝	Merck	88⅝	89⅝	UAL	113	111
Cons NG	43⅝	43⅝	Merll Lynch	20⅝	20¾	Un Camp	35⅝	35⅝
Cons Rail	39⅝	39⅝	MM&M	84⅝	84⅝	Un Carbide	16⅝	16⅝
Cooper Ind	41⅝	41⅝	Mobil	56⅝	57⅝	Un Pacific	69⅝	70
Corning	44⅝	44⅝	Monsanto	47⅝	47⅝	Unilever	90⅝	90
CPC Intl	80⅝	81⅝	Moore	22	22¾	Unisys	2⅝	2⅝
Crown Cork	54⅝	55⅝	Morgan	43⅝	43¾	Unocal	25¾	25⅝
CSX	32	31⅝	Motorola	52¾	52	Upjohn	37⅝	37⅝
Dana	27⅝	28⅝	Nat Medical	37⅝	37⅝	US West	37⅝	38⅝
Dayton-Hud	*57⅝*	*57*	*Nat Semi*	*4¾*	*4¾*	*Usair Gp*	*16*	*15⅝*
Deere	46⅝	47⅝	Nat Service	24⅝	25⅝	USF&G	8⅝	8⅝
Delta Air	56⅝	55⅝	Navistar	2¾	2¾	UST	33⅝	35
Deluxe	34⅝	34⅝	NCNB	23⅝	23¾	USX	29⅝	29⅝
Detroit Ed	28¾	28⅝	NCR	88⅝	89	Utd Tech	47⅝	47⅝
Digital Eq	55⅝	54⅝	NED *Bncp*	32¾	32½	Utd Telcm	22⅝	23¾
Dillard	85⅝	87⅝	Newmnt Min	38⅝	40	VF	16⅝	16⅝
Disney	101⅝	101	Niagr Mhwk	13	13⅝	Wal-Mart	30⅝	30
Dominion	46⅝	46⅝	Nike	40	40¾	Walgreen	50⅝	51⅝
Donnelley	39⅝	39⅝	NL Indstrs	9⅝	9⅝	Waste Mgmt	35⅝	35⅝
Dover	39¾	39⅝	Nordstorm	23⅝	22⅝	Wells Fargo	55⅝	56⅝
Dow Chem	46⅝	47	Norflk Sthn	41¾	40⅝	Westg Elec	28⅝	28⅝
Dow Jones	24⅝	24⅝	Norwest	20⅝	20⅝	Weyerhsr	20⅝	21
Dresser Ind	20⅝	20⅝	Nthn St Pwr	33½	33⅝	Whirlpool	22⅝	23⅝
Du Pont	35⅝	36⅝	Nthn Telcm	28	27⅝	Whitman	16⅝	17⅝
Duke Pwr	30⅝	30⅝	NY Times	21⅝	21⅝	Winn-Dixie	31¾	31⅝
Dun Bradst	42	42⅝	Nynex	70	70⅝	Woolworth	29⅝	30
East Kodak	41⅝	41¾	Occid Petrl	18⅝	19⅝	Wrigley	51⅝	52⅝
Eaton	49⅝	49⅝	Ohio Edi	17⅝	17	Wrner-Lamb	66⅝	67⅝
Emerson El	37⅝	37¾	Oracle Sys	7⅝	8	Xerox	36⅝	36⅝

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL Tel: 0345 717373 (Linkline)				
Gilt/Fixed	108.9	115.6●	−0.1	8.95
High Inc Equity	118.6	126.1●	−2.2	5.04
W'wide Bond	191.2	202.7	−0.5	7.40
Amer Growth	*151.3*	*161.6●*	*−2.3*	*1.18*
Asian Pacific	98.82	103.0●	−1.17	0.18
Assets/Earns	143.3	153.2	−4.0	3.54
Capil Res	93.64	99.75	+0.04	7.16
Comm/Energy	71.26	76.21	−0.93	1.30
Euro Capitl	77.93	83.34	−1.37	1.38
General	148.4	158.7	−3.9	3.15
Japan	80.89	86.51	−0.19	0.00
UK Gth Inc	86.90	91.87	−4.58	3.10
Do Acc	132.8	142.0	−7.1	3.10
US Emerg Cos	43.80	46.84	−0.85	0.00
Income/Gth	261.0	279.1	−7.4	3.67
Masterist Acc	75.25	80.48	−1.26	3.19
Am Inc	*40.32*	*42.89*	*+0.04*	*8.39*
Ethical	42.05	44.73	−0.13	2.24
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Tel: 0224 633070 dealing (Freephone) 0800 833580 30, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ Tel: 071-374 0881				
Am Inc/Gth	24.47	25.94	−0.03	3.06
Euro	65.80	69.64	−0.26	0.00
Euro Inc	69.15	72.95●	−0.31	1.69
Exmpt	660.4	693.5●	−6.2	3.40
Extra Inc	35.24	37.61●	−0.23	8.60
F/E Emerg Ec	38.87	41.42	−0.42	1.55
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL Tel: 0793 514514 dealing:0793 610366				
High Inc	308.4	328.4	..	5.86
Equity Inc	165.8	176.5●	..	6.28
High Yield	174.5	185.8	..	6.35
Balanced	452.9	482.3●	..	4.13
Am Inc	26.97	28.72	..	4.46
World Ass Val	26.35	28.06	..	1.84
Japan	112.4	118.9	..	0.01
Sec of Am	217.7	231.8●	..	0.70
BARCLAYS UNICORN Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 Tel: 081-534 5544				
Capitl	79.26	84.25	−0.67	4.46
Euro Gth Inc	79.90	85.28	−0.76	1.59
Extra Inc	84.06	89.90	−0.45	7.57
General	171.8	183.9	−1.1	4.60
Gt/Fxd Income	48.78	50.59●	−0.01	10.93
Inc Trust	386.8	413.7	−2.1	5.80
BARING FUND MANAGERS				

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Do Acc	£77.54	81.53	..	4.14
Spec Sits	52.49	55.85●	−1.51	4.48
Do Acc	58.35	62.09●	−0.37	4.48
CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT PO Box 552 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU Tel: 071-626 0566 071-[illegible]				
Amer Index	114.3	121.9	−0.8	1.95
Capil	405.0	430.0	−2.6	5.23
Euro Index	96.33	102.6	−1.07	1.98
Euro Growth	61.76	65.91●	−0.52	2.58
Far East S S	50.77	54.18●	−0.26	1.03
Gold Gen S S	50.02	53.38	−0.62	5.81
Income	381.1	405.7	−1.7	6.57
Intl Gth	50.09	53.45	−0.30	1.99
Jap Index	53.67	57.27	+0.05	0.00
N Amer	232.3	247.8	−2.0	2.30
Tiger Index	85.07	88.44	−0.94	2.59
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN Tel: 071-606 0708				
Amer Port	44.49	47.59●	−0.01	2.43
Euro Port	54.71	58.52	−0.31	1.50
Jap Port	37.51	40.12●	−0.24	2.26
Pacific Port	44.40	47.75●	−0.36	2.50
Port	51.91	55.52●	−0.17	2.99
UK Inc/Gth	49.81	53.56	−0.13	7.11
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Inv	471.9	475.4	..	5.81
Fixed Int	131.5	131.8●	..	11.00
Deposit	100.0		..	14.20
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND 2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Income	453.6	457.6●	..	6.14
Acc	£15.83	15.77●	..	..
Deposit	100.0		..	14.20
CIGNA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD PO Box 126 Beckenham Kent BR3 4PN Tel: 081-663 3030				
Euro Gth	72.76	77.81	..	1.20
1992 Euro Spe	54.88	58.69	..	1.00
Intl Inc	58.60	62.57●	..	5.00
NAm Gth	37.93	40.56	..	1.60
Pacific Gth	60.27	64.45	..	1.50
UK Gth Acc	74.36	79.52	..	3.10
Do Dist	66.89	71.53	..	3.10
UK Income	57.21	61.18	..	6.50
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS St Helen's, 1, Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ Tel: 071-283 7500 Dealing 081-[illegible]				

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

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هكذا من الأصل

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Gold Greenlees	Paper,Print,Adv	
2	Holmes Protection	Industrials E-K	
3	BICC (aa)	Electricals	
4	Welsh Water	Water	
5	Boots (aa)	Industrials A-D	
6	Ryl Bk Scot (aa)	Banks,Discount	
7	Jones & Shipman	Industrials E-K	
8	Goodhead	Paper,Print,Adv	
9	Hawker Siddly (aa)	Industrials E-K	
10	Lloyds (aa)	Banks,Discount	
11	BPP	Newspapers,Pub	
12	Egerton Trust	Property	
13	Bespak	Industrials A-D	
14	Oxford Instruments	Electricals	
15	Allied Lon	Property	
16	Warner	Property	
17	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	
18	Bibby (J)	Industrials A-D	
19	Computer People	Electricals	
20	Vivat	Drapery,Stores	
21	Cairn Energy	Oil,Gas	
22	Grampian Hdg	Industrials E-K	
23	Ward Group	Building,Roads	
24	Tyne Tees TV	Leisure	
25	Zetters Gp	Leisure	
26	Hardys & Hansons	Breweries	
27	Euro Disney	Leisure	
28	Marks Spencer (aa)	Drapery,Stores	
29	Wolseley	Industrials S-Z	
30	Town Centre	Property	
31	Brathwaite	Industrials A-D	
32	CIA Gp	Paper,Print,Adv	
33	Nthn Foods (aa)	Foods	
34	Br Vita	Industrials A-D	
35	Electron House	Electricals	
36	Daejan	Property	
37	Travis Perkins	Building,Roads	
38	McKay Secs	Property	
39	Wintrust	Banks,Discount	
40	WPP	Paper,Print,Adv	
41	Utd Biscuits (aa)	Foods	
42	Liberty	Drapery,Stores	
43	Estates Gen	Property	
44	Barbour Index	Newspapers,Pub	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990/91 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int only yld%	Gross Red yld%
97¾	89⅞	Treas	3%	1991	97⅞	..	3.0	11.068
98⅝	90⅝	Fund	5¾%	1987-91	98⅝	+⅛	5.8	12.140
97	87⅞	Treas	8%	1991	96⅝	..	8.3	11.814
99⅜	94⅞	Treas C	10%	1991	99	●..	10.1	12.158
99⅝	89⅝	Exch	11%	1991	99⅞	..	11.0	11.955
99¼	92⅜	Treas	11¾%	1991	99⅞	●..	11.9	29.999
93	82⅞	Treas	3%	1992	91⅛	..	3.27	9.384
96⅜	85⅜	Treas	8%	1992	95⅝	+⅛	8.3	11.505
98⅜	90⅜	Treas	10%	1992	98	+⅛	10.2	11.937
98⅞	88⅝	Treas	C10¼%	1992	96⅝	+⅛	10.6	11.525
101⅞	92	Exch	12¼%	1992	100⅞	+⅛	12.1	11.727
101⅞	93⅛	Treas	12¾%	1992	101	●+⅛	12.6	11.895
103⅞	101⅛	Exch	13½%	1992	103	+⅛	13.0	11.388
92⅜	81⅞	Fund	6%	1993	89⅝	-⅛	6.6	10.050
94⅝	86⅝	Treas	8¼%	1993	94⅛	+⅛	8.7	11.384
98⅜	87	Treas	10%	1993	97⅝	+⅛	10.2	11.157
103⅞	93⅞	Treas	12½%	1993	102⅝	●+⅛	12.1	11.225
107⅞	94	Treas	13¾%	1993	106⅝	+⅛	12.9	11.150
94	84⅜	Treas	8½%	1994	93⅜	●+⅛	9.1	11.140
94⅝	82⅝	Treas	9%	1994	93⅝	+⅛	9.6	10.984
98⅝	84	Treas	10%	1994	97⅝	+⅛	10.2	10.888
105	94⅝	Exch	12½%	1994	104	+⅛	12.0	11.051
107⅞	94⅞	Exch	13½%	1994	106⅝	+⅛	12.8	11.051
110⅝	99⅝	Treas	14½%	1994	108⅝	+⅛	13.2	10.914
87	72⅜	Gas	3%	1990-95	83⅝	..	4.07	10.785
98⅝	88	Exch	10¼%	1995	97⅛	●+⅛	10.6	10.980
104⅞	94⅞	Treas	12%	1995	103⅛	●+⅛	11.6	10.934
107⅞	94⅞	Treas	12¾%	1995	106⅝	+⅛	11.9	10.889

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990/91 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int only yld%	Gross Red yld%
93⅝	82⅝	Treas	9%	1992-96	93⅝	..	9.6	10.645
95⅞	83⅞	Conv	10%	1996	96⅜	..	10.3	10.807
110⅝	96	Exch	13¼%	1996	109	..	12.1	10.948
112⅝	100⅝	Treas	14%	1996	110⅝	●..	12.6	11.137
119⅝	102⅝	Treas	15¼%	1996	116⅝	..	13.0	11.029
91⅞	79⅝	Treas	8¾%	1997	90⅜	..	9.6	10.738
99	87⅜	Exch	10½%	1997	98⅝	..	10.6	10.842
111⅜	98⅝	Treas	13¼%	1997	109⅝	●..	12.0	10.876
120⅝	106⅝	Exch	15%	1997	118	..	12.5	11.042
82⅝	69	Treas	6¾%	1995-98	81⅜	+⅛	8.2	10.356
95⅝	83⅝	Exch	9¾%	1998	94⅜	●+⅛	10.2	10.620
107⅞	89⅝	Exch	12%	1998	105⅞	+⅛	11.3	10.882
126	107⅞	Treas	15½%	1998	123	+⅛	12.5	10.958
95	82	Treas	9½%	1999	93⅝	●+⅛	10.1	10.652
98	81½	Conv	10¼%	1999	98⅝	+⅛	10.5	10.755
99⅞	84⅝	Treas	10½%	1999	99⅝	+⅛	10.6	10.748
108⅝	94⅝	Exch	12¼%	1999	107	+⅛	11.4	10.905
91⅝	78⅝	Conv	9%	2000	90⅝	..	9.9	10.576
114⅝	98⅝	Treas	13%	2000	112	●..	11.5	10.896
97⅞	82⅝	Treas	10%	2001	95⅝	+⅛	10.4	10.681
118⅝	97⅞	Treas	14%	1998-01	114⅝	..	12.2	11.045
[illegible]								

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED

[illegible]

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

[illegible]

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Stores weak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 31. Dealings end January 11. §Contango day January 14. Settlement day January 21.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 22).

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
224	119	Ryl Bk Scot (aa)	156	160●	+1	11.2	7.1	7.4
902	613	Schroders	698	715	–	22.2	3.2	9.8
815	236	Stand Chart (aa)	243	250	-7	46.7	18.9	–
147	114	TSB (aa)	130	132	-1	8.1	6.2	19.8
611	489	Union Disc	578	578	–	44.0	7.7	31.0
525	284	Warburg SG	330	337	+2	20.0	6.0	5.8
179	50	Do 6% 'A'	113	116	+1	8.0	7.8	–
50¼	21⅞	Wells Fargo	33		●-2⅛	–	–	–
279	131	Westpac	128	138●	-4	–	–	–
420	299	Wintrust	290	300	+2	11.6	3.9	8.0

BREWERIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
520	408	Allied-Lyons (aa)	482	485●	+1	23.4	4.8	10.1
11¼	895	Bass (aa)	10⅛	10¼●	–	43.2	4.2	9.4
170	129	Boddingtons	146	150	–	7.2	4.9	15.6
205	161	Bulmer (H P)	177	185●	-4	10.6	5.9	12.6
227	124	Burtonwood Brew	122	130●	+1	5.3	4.2	11.7
400	250	Clark (Matthew)	358	368	–	18.0	5.0	12.6
205	115	Devenish (JA)	137	143●	+1	7.1	5.1	8.6
115	45	Fosters Brewing Gp	54	57	-2	–	–	–
681	521	Grand Met (aa)	665	668	+1	27.2	4.1	10.4
380	295	Greenall Whit	305	310●	-3	13.3	4.3	8.1
420	313	Greene King	407	415●	+6	13.6	3.3	14.7
823	630	Guinness (aa)	745	750	-3	21.7	2.9	15.6
955	680	Hardys & Hansons	882	902	+2	44.7	5.0	10.9
259	182	Highland Dist	252	258●	+1	6.4	2.5	19.4
459	375	Mansfield	423	433●	–	15.3	3.6	11.1
222	169	Marston Thompson	189	195●	–	5.6	2.9	15.7
600	245	Morland	240	265●	–	8.8	3.4	8.0
739	483	SA Breweries	605	620	–	–	–	–
382	276	Scot & New (aa)	355	359●	+1	18.2	5.1	12.6
329	191	Vaux Group	198	205●	–	11.7	5.8	10.0
470	360	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	427	430●	-1	20.4	4.8	12.0
14¼	11¾	Do 'B'	13	14●	–	20.4	1.5	37.7
430	339	Wolverhampton & D	408	417●	–	12.4	3.0	11.5
495	405	Young 'A'	400	420	–	16.0	3.9	19.5

BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
130	50	Abbey	60	60	–	–	–	–
504	180	Amec	202	207	-2	13.0	6.3	8.0
132	19	Anglia Sec	17	20	-1	–	–	–
155	83	Arncliffe	75	80	–	9.0	10.8	2.1
531	203	Attwoods	202	207●	-6	6.3	3.1	17.8
259	180	BPB Ind (aa)	175	177●	–	15.0	8.5	7.5
144	70	Baggeridge Brick	68	75●	-2	4.2	5.8	8.5
71	25	Bailey (Ben) Constr	30	35●	–	2.5	7.6	3.4
185	94	Bardon Group	98	102	-1	5.1	5.1	10.6
215	86	Barratt Devs	95	98	-3	12.0	12.4	10.2
178	82	Beazer PLC (aa)	99	101	+1	10.3	10.3	5.8
217	144	Bellway	205	210●	–	14.7	7.1	10.1
41	9	Bellwinch	9	12	–	–	–	–
258	142	Berkeley Gp	250	253●	-2	8.0	2.4	8.4
[illegible]								

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

[illegible]

DRAPERY, STORES

[illegible]

ELECTRICALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

FINANCE, LAND

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

FOODS

[illegible]

HOTELS, CATERERS

[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS A-D

[illegible]

E - K

[illegible]

L - R

[illegible]

S - Z

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

Investment Trusts appear on Page 22

LEISURE

[illegible]

MINING

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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

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SHOES, LEATHER

[illegible]

TEXTILES

[illegible]

TOBACCOS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
287	209	Anglian Water	264	267	–	20.4	7.7	6.2
288	215½	Northumbrian	273	277	-1	21.4	7.8	3.4
278	211¼	North West	261	264	–	21.0	8.0	5.7
248	190	Severn Trent	240	243	+1	19.8	8.2	4.2
251	191	Sthrn Water	244	246	–	20.0	8.1	5.3
281	203	South West	261	264	+1	23.2	8.8	4.2
275	206	Thames Water	269	271	-1	21.4	7.9	6.6
288	219	Welsh Water	270	275	+1	22.4	8.2	4.4
264	203	Wessex Water	258	261	–	20.3	7.8	5.0
269	221½	Yorkshire Water	263	266	–	20.6	7.8	5.7
£2700	£1000	Package Unit	£2603		-62			

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

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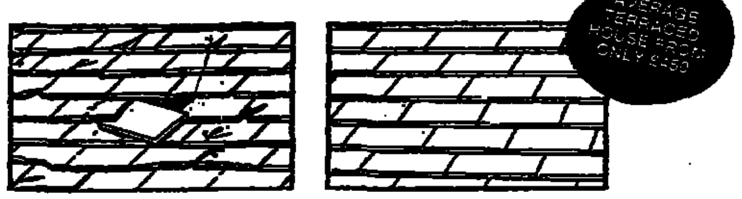
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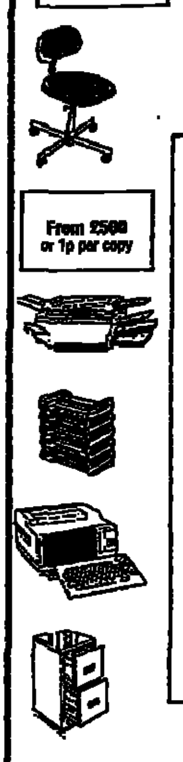

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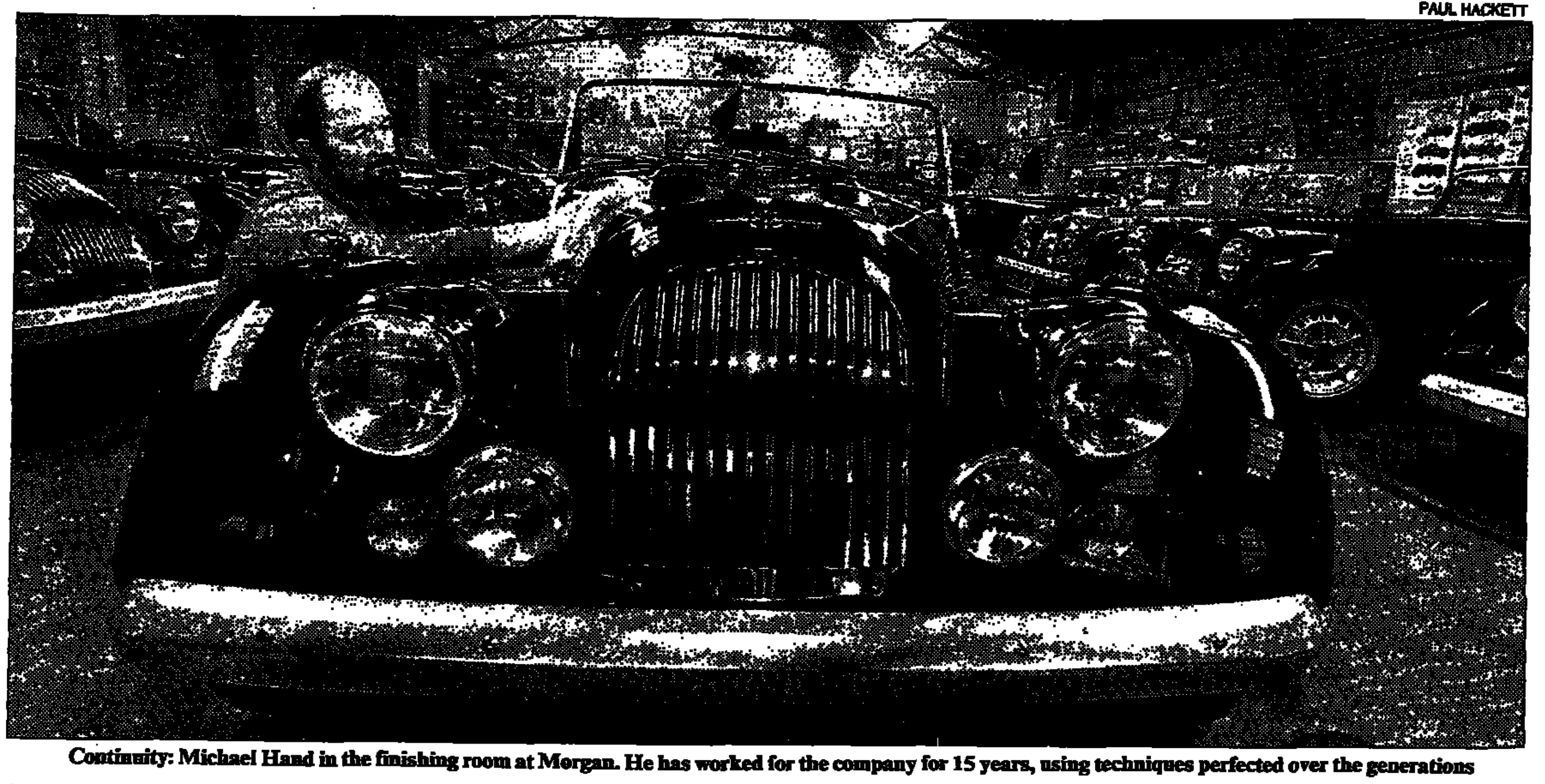
Many hands make slow work on a fast car

Buyers must wait eight years to get behind the wheel of a Morgan, the nippy, hand-built sports car, **Daniel Ward** writes


PAUL HACKETT

Continuity: Michael Hand in the finishing room at Morgan. He has worked for the company for 15 years, using techniques perfected over the generations

John Hughes joined the Morgan Motor Company from school. For the past 20 years he has soldered the long seams that seal each hand-made fuel tank, working with a stubby, wooden-handled soldering iron, heated on a gas ring. "I have not had one leak in all that time," he proudly volunteers. Why do we think that unfailing quality can be achieved only by the Japanese?

In the middle of the "tin shop" is an iron stove, glowing cherry red, that was probably there in 1919, when the factory opened in Malvern Link. The clatter of 18 hammers tapping metal into shape competes with the radio. Flat metal sheets are curved and shaped by experienced hands to form the timeless Morgan body that has changed little since three wheels made way for four.

Step next door into the wood shop where the 100-year-old ash, already sawn into shape, is carefully fitted and glued to form the body frame, and you will find the wooden jigs that, since the early Fifties, have clamped the three layers of wood to form the wheel arches on every hand-made Morgan. One man takes nine hours to build the ash frame.

In the home of Morgan change happens slowly and is most often sneered at. The latest Morgan, the 3.9 litre Plus 8 (priced at £22,362), looks no different. The new model is either the best-looking English sports car, or simply old-fashioned, depending on the beholder.

Resting under the bonnet is the latest 190bhp aluminium V8 from Land-Rover, ready to take the lightweight sports car from rest to 60mph in 5.6 seconds and on to a 130mph top speed. For such a small manufacturer there is some pride in making the 3.9 Plus 8 clean enough to satisfy the tough 1983 Californian exhaust emission test while also beating, in acceleration, the world's fastest sports car, as judged in a recent test in a German magazine.

Slipping down to fourth gear allows the Morgan its head. An exhilarating surge of power marks this Morgan down as the fastest yet. Overtaking ability is superb.

Previously, fast motoring with an unyielding suspension on any road that did not have the smoothness of a bowling green forced the driver into intense concentration. Controlling a fast Morgan on a bumpy road is an acquired skill. Similarly, a taste for the jolting received on roughly repaired urban roads was all part of owning a Morgan.

The leopard has not changed its spots but there have been improvements. Bounce on the front bumper and the suspension will not yield a millimetre, yet softer springs and dampers are now fitted to the 1913-designed pillar front suspension; ancient lever-arm dampers have made way for modern units at the rear.

Nothing else can quite match the view over the long bonnet with its rows of hand-pressed louvres and old-fashioned sidelights on the wings. Wrapped up with scarves and bobble hats and belted into the narrow cockpit, the heater makes it more than bearable to dispense with the roof, even on a chilly day.

Who buys a Morgan? Charles Morgan, the grandson of the founder, says: "We have the impoverished owner who has a four-seater and drives it everywhere; he services it himself and likes its simplicity. Then we have the bloke who has three other cars. There is no typical owner."

Deciding to buy a Morgan is the easy part. Buying a new one requires extreme patience; at least eight years of waiting on the current reckoning. The company never advertises, but Morgan needs to make more cars.

Sir John Harvey Jones, former chairman of ICI and now a management guru, arrived with his *Troubleshooter* film crew in tow at Morgan's door just as the company was taking the big step from building nine to 10 cars a week. Sir John thought output should be doubled, and threw his hands up in horror that the company could continue without too much change.

"Stay small and stay safe" has been the company's philosophy since the Sixties. Charles Morgan now accepts that the company must produce more cars. "The last impression we want to give is that we do this as a hobby," he says. "We can be more efficient."

Estate passes family test on a dry run

Hot stuff: the Escort Ghia Estate is aimed at families

FORD has always made good heaters. This proved a relief when I had to dry my three-year-old's trousers after a dousing in a Scottish river *(Daniel Ward writes)*. They were wedged over the demister and 110 miles were enough to have them bone-dry. The Escort estate passed the test with honours.

Previously, the only drivers of Escort estates appeared to be television rental delivery men or sales reps. The new model is supposed to change all that.

An estate car justifies its purchase for any family by the extreme volume of belongings, from dogs to chests of drawers, that can be swallowed without protest and still allow the tailgate to be squeezed closed, just.

Ford has increased the maximum load space by 35 per cent to 50 cubic feet when the split rear-seats are folded flat. The flat loading-floor is 6.8 inches longer than on the old Escort, and a foot wider.

To emphasise the Escort estate's change in role there is a storage compartment under the boot floor, side pockets and a smart black roof rack, standard on the Ghia model. Finished in silver, the estate is a good deal more pleasing to the eye than the awkward-looking hatchback.

Road-holding, even on wet roads, sets a good standard but unprogressive brakes and lifeless power-assisted steering (£330 extra) makes smooth driving hard to achieve. Inside, only the sophisticated stereo system provides a firm clue that this is the most expensive Escort estate on offer.

A steady driving style suits the 1.6-litre catalyst-equipped engine, which is unruly by today's standards.

As a rule of thumb, top-of-the-range models are rarely good value, and the the Escort Ghia Estate at £13,010 is no exception. Although the Ghia's price includes about £500 for the exhaust catalyst, the 1.6GLX looks a wiser buy. Give up a few trimmings and about £13,000 will buy a bigger and faster Montego.

Ford Escort Ghia 1.6 Catalyst
Price: £13,010.
Optional extras: power-assisted steering (£330), anti-lock brakes (£435), automatic (£760), air-conditioning (£920).

Performance: top speed 115mph, 0-60mph in 11.2 seconds, 27.7mpg around town.

Diesel switch saves union £540,000

SWITCHING a fleet of 500 cars to diesel will save Britain's biggest trade union more than £540,000 in fuel costs *(Kevin Eason writes)*.

The Transport and General Workers' Union has just completed a review of the fleet it runs for officials around Britain and discovered something that seems to have escaped much of British business: diesel can be far more economical than petrol.

The union studied three models and in every case found that, assuming £2 a gallon for petrol and the current price of diesel, huge savings were available for cars covering 40,000 miles.

The best savings would come from running Rover Montego 2.0 diesel saloons, instead of the 1.6 petrol Montegos now in the fleet. Fuel savings were £549,000.

The Peugeot 405 1.9 GLD saved £382,000 over the 1.6-litre petrol 405 and the Ford Sierra 2.1 diesel saved £331,000 over the 1.6 petrol Sierra.

A survey by Cowie Interleasing, one of Britain's biggest leasing firms, underlines the benefits of diesel. The £8,400 Peugeot 205 GLD, the most economical diesel fleet car, cost just 22.81p a mile.

Cowie bases its figures on retail price, leasing, and maintenance and fuel costs for a car running 20,000 miles.

EDITED BY KEVIN EASON

ROADWISE

■ Get rid of the Christmas pudding-induced sloth with a hair-raising trip beside a top rally driver. A rally-style course has been built at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, for professional drivers to give ordinary motorists a feel for what it is like racing through the mud and trees at high speed. It is all part of the Auto Sports International Show, which is open until Sunday.

■ In the first round of price increases for the new year, Vauxhall prices go up an average 3.6 per cent on January 13. The range will now start with the £6,340 Nova and go up to the Senator at £20,570. Buyers who have already placed orders do not suffer the rise.

■ The prices of Protons, the Malaysian cars winning success in Britain, have risen by 3 per cent on average. The base model 1.3GL saloon is now £6,799, the 1.5 SE Aerodeck £8,990.

■ The heritage of Alfa Romeo racing is on display in Britain later this month at the Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, east London. Some of the Italians' most exotic cars will be on view from January 17 to March 10.

■ The new French challenger to the Ford Escort will be the Citroën ZX. The compact model, which fits between the mini AX and the mid-range BX, is aimed at a market segment accounting for 30 per cent of European sales.

■ Ford has installed a new durability-testing centre at its Dunton research headquarters in Essex. The tests used to be among the last in the development of a new vehicle and sometimes revealed problems. The new computer can test components at concept stage.

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1988 E Delta Integrale 8v LHD. 1 Owner. F.S.H. Remote Alarm. Superb Condition £11,995
1987 E Delta HF 4WD Turbo RHD. Finished in Monza Red. Radio Cassette (Pre-integrale model) £8,750
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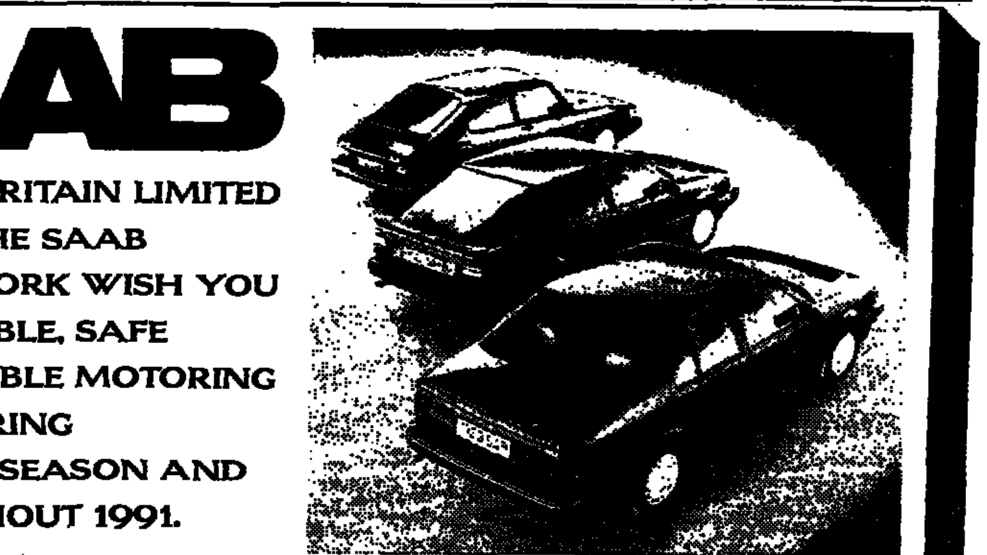

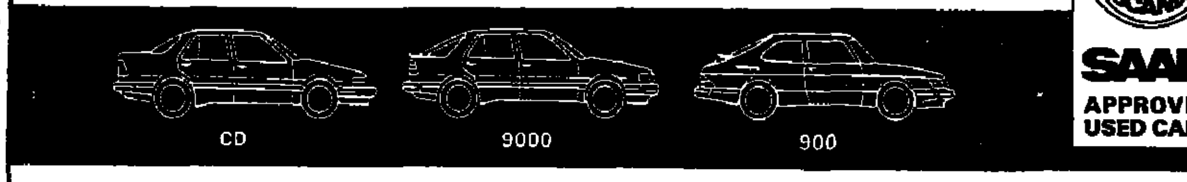

World swimming championships live up to their theme tune of 'Let's Get Serious'

Britain seek more than a pat on back and ice-cream

From CRAIG LORD IN PERTH

IMAGE closed the gap on money as Fina, the governing body, joined swimmers in the race to champion the greatest cause on the first day of competition at the sixth world championships in Australia.

No sooner had the slender forms of the synchronised swimmers taken to the pool to display their routines to music in the solo preliminaries than Fina officials changed the tune and pace by talking about human submarines, South Africa, Iraq and Kuwait, starting blocks, sprinting and drugs.

The rock'n'roll came later when the championship theme tune, "Let's get serious", was performed at the opening ceremony. The mood of the piece was fitting.

Fina took trouble to get its image right. It had not suspended Iraq from its bureau at the request of Kuwait because Saddam Hussein's swimming federation had done nothing wrong.

Sticking to a political tone, Mustapha Larfaqui said that, as an African, he would welcome South African swimmers back into the pool "under the right conditions". These included uniting the three federations in South Africa. So far, so good. What are the three? "White, er, I suppose black and, well, we don't really know. We'll have to check." They intended to do so before a visit to Pretoria.

On drugs, Dr Olu Asekun, the Nigerian who represents Fina's medical committee, said about 150 swimmers were to be tested at Perth at random. Not all winners will be tested and the figure could work out at about one in ten of all swimmers, with many swimming more than one race.

Dr Asekun leapt to China's defence, saying: "I think that allegation [about drug-taking] was in bad taste because at the Beijing Games [Asian Games] doping-testing was done." A flying squad of drug-testers, to appear anywhere in the world at any time, was also being considered.

The press was still restless, so Fina annnounced its rule changes. The 10-metre limit on distance spent underwater at the start and turns in backstroke, imposed to prevent swimmers like David Berkoff, the American world record-holder at 100 metres, spending most of the first length submerged, would be extended to 15 metres as from March 3. One false start, not two, will be allowed from that date. Both changes were welcomed.

Fina also scored points for allowing the timing pad on the starting blocks to be lifted a fraction to allow swimmers to grip the edge with their hands for "grab" and "track" starts. The generous mood was extended further to swimmers, who are to enjoy more Fina representation through a new athletes' commission, to be set up during the championships.

While many nations welcomed Sunday's unofficial Fina 50-metre sprint races in breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly — non-Olympic events — France said it would not take part in this "unwelcome distraction".

Britain does not take that view. But it wants to follow France down a financial road. French swimmers who win a gold medal at Perth can expect up to £16,000 in prize-money from their federation. "All ours will get is a pat on the back and an ice-cream," said Paul Bush, the British team manager.

Meanwhile, the image-conscious Italians said nothing. They will hear tomorrow whether their efforts to stage the next world championships in Rome has been successful against those from Athens and Bonn.

Chinese prodigy diving for gold

From CRAIG LORD

HAVING been taken away from home at eight years of age and put through four hours of training almost every day for the next four years, Fu Mingxia was ready for question time. The only problem for the tiny 12-year-old Chinese diver with the picture-postcard smile was that neither questioners nor interpreter could speak Mandarin.

Happily, Wu Guocun, the Chinese head coach, speaks Cantonese. This the interpreter could manage and Fu's replies came through the three-way channel as fast and brief as the 1½sec it took her to dive from the 10-metre platform to the still waters below.

The technical term for her best dive of the day, which helped her into the final in second place behind her team-mate, Xu Yanmei, the Olympic champion, is a backward 2½ somersaults in pike position, or 205B for short. But while the dive was complicated, the little girl was not.

"No," she was not happy with her eight preliminary dives. "No", she did not know whether she would beat her team-mate after doing so at the Goodwill Games in August. "Eight" was the age of her debut in the sport and "one older sister" was the sole reference to family.

Having a sister makes Fu even more special than her talent dictates; in China people are financially encouraged not to have more than one child to help trim population growth.

Fu, who weighs 5½st and stands just over 4ft 8in, was taken from her home in Hubei Province in central China to Jinan in the north when she was eight. She was one of 40 talented juniors. A year ago, she was singled out for the "Spare-time Sports School" in Peking and has seen her parents only once since.

Had Fu arrived on the scene in four years' time, she would be too young to compete. From the next world championships in 1994, divers must be 14 to qualify.

The Chinese have become masters at executing precise and complex dives. Their training programme has evolved from gymnastics, a sport from which veteran Chinese divers had at one time been recruited.

The new generation, however, such as Fu and Xiong Ni, the 16-year-old who is favourite to win the men's platform title, have been trained purely as divers.

Fu's training partner, Sun Shuwei, also aged 12, have stayed at home this time. But he is already waiting in line to follow Xiong.

A source close to the Chinese team (who did not wish to be named) said: "Fu is very homesick. She could not go home after the Goodwill Games because of preparing for Perth. I think she is too young for this. She doesn't understand. She was made diver of the year in America, but she doesn't understand what that means."

The Chinese source said children joined the training camp at Jinan, where Fu learned to dive, from the age of seven. "They are specifically prepared for the Olympic Games, world championships and Asian Games. They are very well looked after. They have a better life than they might at home."

Television cameras kept rolling at the Superdrome and the little girl performed and smiled. Fu is not like others of her age, that much she does know. While her generation may dream of Olympic gold medals, Fu is working hard to achieve it and believes it will happen. It has to. Diving is her life.

● Sarah Northey, of Reading in Berkshire, came seventeenth out of 20 in the solo preliminaries of the synchronised swimming yesterday. Northey faced a difficult task after having to replace Kerry Shacklock, Britain's leading synchro swimmer, relatively late. Shacklock has just returned to training after recovering from after a neck injury.

Sylvie Frechette goes into the next round in the lead with 98.36 points. The Canadian impresssed judges by staying more than 50 seconds under water at the start of her routine.

Split second to splashdown: Fu Mingxia (also inset) in action off the platform

RESULTS

Diving

Women

Platform

QUALIFIERS FOR FINAL: 1, X Yanmei (China), 435.03pts; 2, F Mingxia (China), 406.80; 3, W Williams (US), 402.15; 4, C Kim (N Korea), 390.93; 5, A Adams (Aus), 386.58; 6, I Afonina (USSR), 385.50; 7, D Pecher (Ger), 367.17; 8, C Smith (US), 365.04; 9, E Miroshina (USSR), 355.95; 10, V Arlow (Aus), 352.08; 11, K Gamme (Nor), 349.71; equal 12, A Dacyshyn (Can), 346.98 and M Kuehn (Ger), 346.98.

Synchronised swimming

Solo preliminaries

LEADING POSITIONS: 1, S Frechette (Can), 98.36pts; 2, K Babb (US), 98.16; 3, M Kotani (Japan), 97.72; 4, O Sedakova (USSR), 94.840; 5, K Schuler (Fr), 94.80; 6, P Celli (It), 91.08; 7, M Both (Neth), 89.92; 8, M Mueller (Ger), 89.88; 17, S Northey (GB), 87.32.

BADMINTON

Change of fortunes lifts Muggeridge to top of rankings

By RICHARD EATON

JOANNE Muggeridge, who last season had to help out behind the bar at the Wimbledon club to make ends meet, yesterday became England's new joint No. 1 in the national rankings. With her financial problems seemingly in the past, Muggeridge has been given equal billing with Helen Troke, twice a European and twice a Commonwealth champion.

Muggeridge, aged 21, who has beaten both the Swedish No. 1, Christine Magnusson, and the Dutch No. 1, Eline Coene, has jumped two places to the top. A bigger leap has been made by Tracy Dineen, aged 20, who won the Lancashire Open and climbs from tenth to third.

The most spectacular development in the men's list is the sudden appearance of the Bush brothers from Wiltshire, Peter and Anthony, who come in at five and ten respectively. The No. 1 position is kept by the English national champion, Darren Hall, who regained the top spot in September when the European champion, Steve Baddeley, now retired, left the list.

Two other world-class England internationals, Gill Clark and Gillian Gowers, have decided to end their famous women's doubles partnership despite reaching the final of the All England championships.

Clark and Gowers have been competing together for the best part of six years.

RANKINGS: Men: 1, D Hall; equal 2, S Butler and A Nielsen; 4, M Smith; 5, P Bush; 6, M Brown; 7, P Knowles; 8, P Smith; 9, R Harmsworth; equal 10, S Pandya and A Bush. **Women:** equal 1, J Muggeridge and H Troke; 3, T Dineen; 4, F Gallup; 5, J Bradbury; 6, T Groves; 7, A Fisher; 8, A Humby; 9, J Mann; 10, S Hore.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Officials feature in honours list

By JANE WYATT

TWO prominent figures working in sports for the disabled feature in the New Year Honours List. Bernard Atha, chairman of the British Paralympic Association and the United Kingdom Association for People with a Mental Handicap, receives an OBE. An MBE goes to Philip Craven, chairman of the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association.

The new year also starts with a change of name for the British Paralympic Sports Society, which for more than 20 years has been the representative for wheelchair sport in this country. From now on the society will be known as the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation. Eva Loessler is the chairman. The name has been chosen by members who believe it "more accurately reflects the activities and work of the organisation". To emphasise the image, a new logo has also been designed.

Plenty of wheelpower will be required this year to produce results against stiff foreign competition in the busy schedule of home and international events. The international timetable starts next weekend with the Alpine skiing championships in Switzerland. Skiiers hopeful of a place in the winter paralympic team competition in Tignes, next March, will be out to prove their worth and selection will depend on performance during the championships.

Winter sports events include the international Nordic skiing competition in Finland at the end of the month and the world sledge hockey championship in Oslo in March. Other international meetings include the multi-disability invitation shooting in Adelaide at the end of January, the swimming championship in Barcelona and the world weightlifting championship in America in August.

Britain is hosting several events starting with the international basketball tournament at Stoke Mandeville in February. Eleven nations have already signed up for the pre-paralympic powerlifting championship to be held in Birmingham in November.

Once again, Stoke Mandeville will be the venue for the world wheelchair games in July. They will be an important proving ground for athletes looking for a place in the squad for the 1992 Paralympics. In April, the London marathon will draw a large foreign contingent and British runners will be hoping to restore national honour after last year's defeat by Hakan Ericsson and Connie Hansen, the Scandinavians.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report January 4 1991

Oral snuff ban was imposed unfairly

Regina v Secretary of State for Health, Ex parte United States Tobacco International Inc

Before Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland

[Judgment December 21]

In banning oral snuff, the Secretary of State for Health acted unlawfully in that he acted unfairly by failing to consult the applicants who had a particular interest as the sole manufacturer of oral snuff in the UK and who had set up their factory with government encouragment and financial assistance.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an application for judicial review by United States Tobacco International Inc against the decision of the secretary of state dated December 13, 1989 to make the Oral Snuff (Safety) Regulations (SI 1989 No 2347) which provided that no person should supply, offer to supply, agree to supply or possess for supply any oral snuff.

Mr Michael Beloff QC, Mr Stuart Isaacs and Mr David Pannick for the applicants; Mr David Latham, QC and Mr Nigel Pleming for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR said that in 1984 the applicants, a company incorporated in the United States, were looking for a manufacturing and packaging base outside the US. They discussed with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Industry Department for Scotland the possibility of setting up a factory to market their products, Skoal Bandits, in Scotland.

They were encouragd by the government departments to do so and were offered government grant by way of incentive. In the result, the applicants built a factory at East Kilbride near Glasgow which was opened in 1985. They received £193,357 of government grant.

The government was aware of medical opinion as to a causal connection between oral snuff and cancer, especially of the mouth. In 1977, the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC) was set up as a committee of experts to advise the secretary of state.

When the applicants indicated their intention to market Skoal Bandits in the UK, the COC was asked to advise on the health implications of using oral snuff. In January 1984 the COC advised there was a causal link with oral cancer, although the overall health risk was less than that of smoking.

The government response was to negotiate with the applicants a voluntary agreement whereby the applicants undertook not to market oral snuff to persons under the age of 18. That agreement was made on April 18, 1985. On June 6, 1986 the agreement was revised to include a requirement for health warnings to be given.

The revised agreement was to apply until December 1987 but by letter dated February 8, 1988 it was extended to April 30, 1988. Even after that letter there were further discussions about possible variations to the agreement.

Meanwhile, however, on June 17, 1986 the COC advised the government to ban oral snuff. No indication or hint of that had been given to the applicants.

It therefore came as a bombshell when the secretary of state announced on February 26, 1988 a proposal to make regulations banning oral snuff. On the same day the department wrote to the applicants pursuant to section 11(5)(a) of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 inviting them to make representations by May 26, 1988.

On December 13, 1989 the regulations were laid before Parliament. They came into force on March 13, 1990. Meanwhile, on February 13, 1990 the applicants applied for leave to apply for judicial review and leave was granted on February 23, 1990.

Ultra Vires

Mr Beloff submitted that the 1987 Act and the regulations were concerned only with consumer protection and safety and not with public health. They were aimed at protecting consumers from defective products not from goods or substances which were intrinsically unsafe.

His Lordship could not accept that. There was no basis for confining the objects of the Act so narrowly. In the context of oral snuff the Act was on any view apt to protect the consumer whether one called its purpose consumer protection or public health.

Proportionality

Mr Beloff argued that the banning of oral snuff was a disproportionate step to guard against the perceived risk.

The secretary of state's avowed object was to nip in the bud what he was advised was a dangerous habit. To wait until it was in full flower in the UK before acting would defeat that object.

Smoking and tobacco chewing were well established habits for so long as to be difficult to reverse. But to say that because a greater risk to health could not readily be eliminated, effective steps should not be taken to prevent a new, albeit lesser risk developing was a fallacious argument.

Community law

Mr Beloff contended that the regulations were in breach of article 30 of the Treaty of Rome which prohibited quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect. Further, he referred to the Labelling Directive adopted by the EC on November 13, 1989 which required by article 4 certain warnings to be carried by tobacco products.

By going further than the Directive and imposing a total ban the secretary of state fell foul of the principle of proportionality, he submitted, since the Council must be deemed to have regarded the Directive as a sufficient measure.

The answer to those submissions was to be found in article 36 of the Treaty which provided that article 30 did not apply for restrictions justified on the ground of health and in article 8.2 of the Directive which provided that member states could impose requirements considered necessary to protect public health.

Legitimate Expectation

The applicants were understandably aggrieved that after leading them on, the government should then strike them a mortal blow by totally banning their product.

In the present case, if the secretary of state concluded on rational grounds that a policy change was required and oral snuff should be banned in the public interest, his discretion could not be fettered by moral obligations to the applicants derived from his earlier favourable treatment of them.

It would be absurd to suggest that some moral commitment to a single company should prevail over the public interest.

Accordingly, altough it was regrettable that the applicants were kept in the dark for so long about the recommendation of a ban, their plea of legitimate expectation could not be upheld.

Fairness

Nevertheless, the special circumstances and history of the matter were relevant to the secretary of state's duty under section 11(5)(a) to consult the applicants.

There were three reasons why consultation in the present case required a high degree of fairness and candour to be shown by the secretary of state.

First, the history. Although the applicants could not successfully rely on legitimate expectation, the fact was that they were led up the garden path. The secretary of state must have realised once the COC had recommended a ban in 1986 that if he accepted that advice he would be executing a *volte face* which would seriously affect the applicants.

Second, although the regulations were of general importance they impinged almost exclusively on the applicants as the sole manufacturers and packagers of oral snuff in the UK.

Third, the effect of the regulations was likely to be catastrophic to the applicants' business in the UK.

It was well established that the claims of natural justice were particularly strong where a party was being deprived of a right previously enjoyed, especially if it involved loss of livelihood.

For those reasons it was important that the secretary of state, when he eventually decided to propose the regulations, should have given the applicants a full opportunity to know and respond to the material and evaluations which led him to such a striking change of policy.

It might well be that in the end that the decision reached by the secretary of state might prove to be wise and in the public interest but such a draconian step should not have been taken unless procedural propriety had been observed and those most concerned had been treated fairly.

Mr Justice Morland delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Taylor Joynson Garrett; Treasury Solicitor.

Discrepancies in texts of Act

Regina v Keriwala

The text of section 58(1) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 as printed in both editions of *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984* (1st edition 1985; 2nd edition 1990), by Michael Zander, and the text of the Act contained in *Current Law Statutes* was not the text of the Queen's Printer's copy.

Lord Justice Beldam, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice Roch so observed on December 7 in giving the reserved judgment of the court dismissing an appeal for other reasons by Rohinton Keriwala, aged 45, of Dubai, against conviction at Isleworth Crown Court (Judge Kenny and a jury) of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of a prohibition on the importation of nearly 3kg of heroin, for which he was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, recommended for deportation and ordered to pay £2,000 costs.

Section 58 provides: "(1) A person arrested and held in custody in a police station or other premises shall be entitled, if he so requests, to consult a solicitor privately at any time."

In Professor Zander's book and in *Current Law Statutes*, section 58 read: "(1) A person who is in police detention shall be entitled if he so requests to consult a solicitor privately at any time."

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Salary differentials are justified

Enderby v Frenchay Health Authority and Another

Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr T. S. Batho, Mrs M. L. Boyle, Mr R. J. Lewis and Mrs M. Sunderland

[Judgment December 21]

Health service employers were entitled to pay higher salaries, agreed through collective bargaining, to pharmacists and clinical psychologists who were predominately male than to speech therapists who were predominately female, where the latter were assumed to be engaged on work of equal value.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal rejected the applicant's argument that a *prima facie* case of unintentional indirect discrimination on the ground of sex was established where an applicant who was a member of a predominately female group was doing work of equal value but was paid less than chosen comparators who belonged to a predominately male group even where access to the two groups was available to all without discrimination.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed an appeal by Dr Pamela Enderby from the dismissal by a London industrial tribunal in February 1989 of her claim for equal pay against the Frenchay Health Authority and the Secretary of State for Health.

She had appealed on the ground that the respondents' claim that the question of whether the applicant's work was of equal value to that of the two male comparators should not be referred to an independent expert under section 2A(1) of the Equal Pay Act 1970, added by the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1794), because a material factor defence under section 1(3) could not be upheld, for as a matter of law the respondents could not establish a section 1(3) defence where the difference in pay of which complaint was made amounted to sex discrimination.

Section 1 of the 1970 Act provides: "(2) An equality clause is a provision which relates to terms (whether concerned with pay or not) of a contract under which a woman is employed (the woman's contract) and has the effect that . . . (c) where a woman is employed on work which, . . . in terms of the demands made on her (for instance under such headings as effort, skill and decision) is of equal value to that of a man in the same employment (i) if (apart from the equality clause) any term of the woman's contract is or becomes less favourable to the woman than a term of a similar kind in the contract under which that man is employed, that term of the woman's contract shall be treated as so modified as not to be less favourable . . .".

Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr David Pannick for Dr Enderby; Mr Eldred Tabachnik, QC and Mr Adrian Lynch for the health authority; Mr Patrick Elias, QC, for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the case raised a principle of fundamental importance. The industrial tribunal held that they were satisfied that the Whitley Council collective bargaining arrangements did not have embedded in them any element of sex discrimination and that the differences in pay related to matters which at the time were properly taken into account by the employers such as hours, nature of work and responsibility.

The applicant's primary submission was that in Community law the European Court of Justice had developed a concept of unintentional indirect discrimination to mean a neutral practice which in fact adversely affected a group composed exclusively or predominately of women and which the employer could not show to be objectively justifiable by reference to the test of need or necessity.

Thus a *prima facie* case of unintentional indirect discrimination on the ground of sex was established where the applicant was doing work of equal value with her chosen comparator, where she was paid less and where she was a member of a predominately female group whereas her comparator belonged to a predominately male group.

The relevant date for the establishment of those facts was that upon which proceedings were initiated. The applicant did not need to show a requirement or condition and the only defence open to the respondent was that of justification.

The respondents' case was that before *prima facie* unintentional discrimination could be established which would then require justification, it was necessary to analyse the pay practice and identify the term or condition which had to be satisfied by the applicant before she could achieve equal pay and to show that she would be unable or less able to comply with it than a man in a similar position.

It was submitted that it was that condition which had to be justified on the principles set out in *Bilka-Kaufhaus GmbH v Weber von Harz* (Case 170/84) ([1987] ICR 110) and that a collective agreement was relevant and capable of providing justification provided it was not tainted by gender.

It was clear from the United Kingdom statutory provisions that before an applicant could succeed the law required discrimination to be established. It was only if a woman was paid less because she was a woman that she had suffered discrimination. Without such discrimination a woman was not entitled to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. The purpose of the Act was to prevent discrimination, not to provide equal pay.

The appeal tribunal considered United States law and EC law and concluded that in every case there was a requirement or rule which itself had a disparate effect on women because fewer women than men in the appropriate pool were able to comply with that factor. In no case was the mere factor of the difference in pay *per se* enough to found an allegation of unintentional discrimination.

Further, the appeal tribunal was unable to find anything in United Kingdom case law to support the applicant's main submission. The essential basis of the established principles was that the less favourable treatment had to be because of sex.

A person was not entitled to equal pay for work of equal value with a comparator of the opposite sex. The mere numerical comparison added nothing. The appeal tribunal could not agree that a purely numerical basis on a given day was a sound jurisprudential foundation for establishing rights and liabilities between the parties in cases of discrimination.

If the applicant's argument was correct, no employer could conduct collective bargaining with different groups with any confidence unless at all times the groups consisted of equal proportions of men and women.

In seeking to identify a *prima facie* case of unintentional indirect discrimination, the law required identification of a factor which caused the disparate impact.

If that factor was not gender tainted it did not require justification. If it was, in that the applicant could bring herself within section 1(1)(b)(i) and (iii) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, then it had to be justified.

No causative factor had been shown in the present case. The appeal would be dismissed. The appeal tribunal would refuse to exercise its discretion to make a reference to the European Court of Justice.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners; Bevan Ashford, Bristol; Treasury Solicitor.

No power to order exchange of defence cases

In re Tariq and Others

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Judge

[Judgment December 21]

No jurisdiction existed under section 9(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 or the Criminal Justice Act 1987 (Preparatory Hearing) Rules (SI 1988 No 1699) for a judge to order that defendants exchange case statements under section 9(4)(a).

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an interlocutory appeal by Mohammed Luqman Tariq against orders made by Judge Laurie at Southwark Crown Court that defence statements be exchanged and that the defendant had leave to inspect other defendants' statements on the court file forthwith. The orders were suspended pending the appeal.

Mr John Morris, QC and Mr Saleem Ahmed for the appellant; Mr Michael M. Wood and Mr Ian Gatt for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that Mr Tariq and others including Taranbir Singh Saroya stood charged on an indictment with counts of conspiracy to defraud and dishonestly procuring a valuable instrument. Large sums of money were involved. The appellant and others pleaded not guilty.

As a result of the judge's order under section 9(3) of the 1987 Act, the prosecution served on the court and the appellant and Saroya a summary of the prosecution's case. No complaint was made about that.

The judge ordered, under section 9(5), each defendant "to give the court and the prosecution a statement in writing setting out in general terms the nature of his defence and indicating the principal matters on which he takes issue with the prosecution." That occasioned no difficulty.

However, Mr Saroyan applied for an order that he be served with the appellant's statement. After discussion, the judge made the orders appealed.

There was no mention in section 9(5) of any power in the court to direct a defendant to serve a copy of his statement on other defendants.

It seemed to their Lordships that the matter was clear on the statutory wording.

There was no force in a suggestion that rule 7(1) of the 1988 Rules conflicted with the terms of the statute. In any event, the words of the Act had to take precedence.

The result was that the judge's two orders were made in excess of jurisdiction. The appeal was allowed and the orders were quashed.

Solicitors: Taylor Nichol, Finsbury Park; Serious Fraud Office.

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Promising Robins Son can initiate Fitzgerald double

By MANDARIN

JIMMY Fitzgerald, on the mark at Nottingham yesterday with Forget The Rest, can collect a double at Edinburgh today with **Robins Son** (2.30) and **Rocket Launcher** (3.30).

Robins Son, particularly, looks an attractive bet to capture the Musselburgh Links Novices' Hurdle following an encouraging first public appearance at Wetherby last month, and he is my nap.

The four-year-old was demoted from second place after being beaten 12 lengths by Reve De Valse, but it was still a commendable effort and the winner looks well above average.

Rocket Launcher showed plenty of early pace before finishing ninth behind Mary Reveley's fine prospect Cab On Target in a bumper event at Kelso in November and should open his account in the First Of Many National Hunt flat race.

Fitzgerald is also represented in the Lothians Racing Syndicate Novices' Hurdle by Happyoats, who is expected to improve on his Market Rasen run behind his stable companion Keelby.

However, slight preference is for Chris Thornton's **Wensleydalewilliam**, who won a bumper race first time out this term, and showed promise when runner-up to Mig in a maiden hurdle event over today's course and distance last month.

O'Gorman: fine chance for Crystal Heights

The Gordon Richards-trained **Candlebright** took full advantage of Rositary's fall at Hexham last month to record her second chasing victory this term, and this progressive six-year-old may have the edge over Scarning Dale in the Glengoyne Highland Malt Tamerosia Series Novices' Chase.

Master Salesman upset the odds laid on Absonant by two lengths over today's course and distance in mid-December, and as the winner is only slightly worse off today, I see no reason why the form should not be confirmed.

Eastern Oasis was deprived of a treble when headed close home by Simple Pleasure over 2½ miles at Edinburgh, and over today's extended trip can get back on the winning trail at the expense of the Saltburn contender Typhoon Lucy.

It may pay to side with George Moore's course and distance winner **Easy Over** in the tricky Broughton Handicap. This five-year-old was a well-beaten third over 2½ miles behind the dead-heaters Tharsis and Miami Bear here last month, but had previously collected at the Scottish course over two miles, which is today's distance.

Outstanding Bill comes into the reckoning on last season's form at Edinburgh with the selection, but has been disappointing in three starts so far this term.

At the Southwell all-weather Flat meeting, all eyes will be on Julie Cecil's first runner **Ferox** in the Chatsworth Handicap. The five-year-old beat today's rival Glencroft by a length over today's minimum trip at Salisbury in October and can give Mrs Cecil the perfect start to her training career.

Alex Greaves can extend her fine strike rate at the Nottinghamshire course with **Stairway To Heaven** in the Philips Analytical Claiming Stakes and another promising young woman rider, Emma O'Gorman, who landed a double for her father, Bill, at Southwell on Wednesday, can collect the Design Contractors Maiden Stakes on **Crystal Heights**.

This sturdy three-year-old showed plenty of ability in his second outing when finishing a close-up third to Rocton North at Yarmouth and should have the measure of today's rivals.

Tempering, who romped home by five lengths at Southwell on Wednesday, can defy his hefty weight, which includes a 5lb penalty, in the Burghley Handicap and **Honing Stone**, a fluent nursery scorer over the course and distance at the end of December, can carry on the good work in the Badminton Apprentice Handicap.

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 2.10 Miss Emmajane. 2.40 Roberty Lea, Anchor Inn, Midas Blue. 3.10 Merchant Of Venice, Coryphee, Wane's Secret, Brera.

Worcester the latest casualty

THE Worcester fixture tomorrow has been called off after parts of the course were found to be waterlogged yesterday. Newton Abbot's fixture today has also been cancelled for the same reason.

However, Edinburgh and Southwell today seem to be in no danger and the remaining meetings tomorrow are at present set to go ahead, though high winds are forecast.

Worcester's problems have once again been caused by its close proximity to the River Severn. Course manager Jack Bennett said: "Parts of the course are flooded. The problem has been caused by back water from the river seeping through the drains. The river has not overflowed but its level continues to rise."

Sandown Park's clerk of the course, Nick Cheyne, reported that there were no problems for tomorrow's big fixture, featuring the Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazalet Chase.

"Strong gales have been forecast but they are likely to be in the West Country," said Cheyne. The going is good to soft on the chase course and soft on the hurdles course (good, back straight).

Haydock Park, which stages the valuable Newton Chase tomorrow, is in good shape with the ground soft at present.

● Ladbrokes have promoted Nomadic Way to 5-1 joint-favourite for the Champion Hurdle following a series of bets yesterday. Other prices: 5-1 Beech Road, 6-1 Morley Street, 7-1 Tyrone Bridge, 10-1 Fidway, Sybillin, Wonder Man, 14-1 bar.

Jockey Club seeks missing £35m from levy-free slice

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Jockey Club yesterday called for the scrapping of the levy-free slice of betting shop turnover which, if left intact, will enable bookmakers to keep almost £30 million of punters' tax contributions next year.

The principle of the levy-free slice was introduced two years ago at the same time as a shops-based scheme. It allows all bookmakers relief from paying levy on the first £200,000 of annual turnover in each shop, and is particularly beneficial to the smaller, independent bookmakers.

Twenty four per cent (2,300) of the nation's 9,600 betting shops have a turnover of less than £200,000 a year.

However, punters pay levy, averaging almost one per cent, on *all* their betting shop racing bets. It is included in the ten per cent tax added to betting stakes or deducted from winnings, irrespective of whether the bookmaker has to pay levy.

The total levy contributions paid by betting-shop punters which do not go to the Horserace Betting Levy Board will be £28.5 million in the forthcoming financial year (when the free slice is £220,000 per shop).

Instead of receiving an anticipated £41.5 million in levy from expected betting turnover of £4.54 billion in 1991-2, racing would have a yield of £70 million if the free slice was ended and the existing rate of £1 in £61 levy continued, Rodney Brack, the Levy Board's director of finance, reported.

David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs, said in a statement yesterday: "The Jockey Club has always maintained that racing does not get a proper price for its product. At the moment, the first £200,000 of turnover from all betting shops, large and small, is free of levy.

"It is understood that this arrangement was in part established to improve the viability of the small bookmakers, and thus to discourage illegal betting.

"However, we believe that all betting shops should pay for the product they receive from racing, and if it is thought necessary to have a public policy objective to discourage illegal betting, then this should be achieved through taxation relief from the Exchequer.

"In addition, we should remember that the off-course punter is already paying the deduction on the £200,000."

Asked if this meant the Jockey Club favoured the abolition of the levy-free slice, Pipe said: "Yes, absolutely. The present mechanism was flawed. It would seem wrong that the punter should in some way help the bookmaker to keep his business going through deductions which are, in theory, meant for the Levy Board."

He accepted that if the free slice was abolished, the current £1 in £61 rate of betting-shop levy might have to change, but that would be up to the Levy Board. "Whether you offset it by making the £1 in £61 more than it would otherwise be is neither here nor there. You should not charge the customer."

The new Jockey Club policy, which will almost certainly be included in its submission to the Commons home affairs select committee enquiry into the levy system, puts racing's rulers on a collision course with the big betting battalions.

The Betting Office Licensees' Association (Bola), whose members include the "big three" of Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral, are demanding that the levy-free slice should be index-linked, along with the fixed fee paid to the Levy Board for every shop.

Frank Dixon, secretary of Bola, said yesterday: "You would cripple the smaller bookmaker if he had to pay £1 in £61 from the first pound. The £1 in £61 rate was introduced only because there would be a levy-free slice as well.

"The levy-free slice recognises that the costs of administration, SIS, etc, for a small bookmaker are greater in percentage terms than those for a large bookmaker. Overheads are a far higher percentage for a small firm with a low turnover than a shop with a large turnover," he added.

Dixon likened the present scheme to any tax scheme worked out by the Chancellor, with allowances which benefited poorer people. The big bookmakers ended up handing over a bigger percentage of levy.

The removal of the levy-free slice would have a catastrophic effect on bookmakers. "You would have an enormous amount of objections and rightly so, not only from Bola, but also from the National Association of Bookmakers (NAB) to which a lot of the small independents belong," Dixon said.

Paul Massey, secretary of NAB, was less outspoken than his Bola counterpart. "I don't think there is anything sacred in any levy scheme. What we have to do is to find a scheme which meets the legitimate aspirations of the racing industry. Those who can afford more must pay more.

"The effect of scrapping the levy-free slice would depend entirely on what was put in its place," he added.

The small bookmakers, who run many of their shops in small towns and villages, are an important part of the betting infrastructure and almost certainly curb the level of illegal gambling.

Nevertheless, MPs on the all-party select committee will be bound to ask why £28.5 million in punters' levy contributions ends up in bookmakers' pockets. Perhaps, more significantly, they will question why the "big three" should enjoy the benefits of a levy-free slice when it was introduced to help the smaller bookmakers.

EDINBURGH

Selections

By Mandarin
12.30 Wensleydalewilliam.
1.00 Candlebright.
1.30 Easy Over.
2.00 Eastern Oasis.
2.30 ROBINS SON (nap).
3.00 Master Salesman.
3.30 Rocket Launcher.

By Thunderer
12.30 Wensleydalewilliam.
1.00 Scarning Dale.
1.30 Outstanding Bill.
2.00 Eastern Oasis.
2.30 Robins Son.
3.00 Master Salesman.
3.30 Rocket Launcher.

By Michael Seely
1.30 Easy Over. 2.30 Robins Son.

Going: good (good to soft in places) **SIS**

12.30 LOTHIANS RACING SYNDICATE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,733: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	5-11230	LOTHIAN CAPTAIN 32 (G) (W Crawford) W Crawford 6-12-4	L O'Hara (3)	● 99
2	220/000	BOWLANDS WAY 22 (Mrs L Campion) G Richards 7-11-6	N Doughty	—
3	0-20	COLONIAL LORD 48 (I Swift) Mrs S Bramall 5-11-6	J O'Gorman (3)	—
4	210-3	HAPPYOATS 9 (Mrs D Osborne) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-6	M Dwyer	94
5	5-122	WENSLEYDALEWILLIAM 13 (G) (Wensleydale Partners) C Thornton 5-11-6	D Wilkinson	98
6	0/6P2/	CHARLENE LADY 1214 (Mrs B Broad) Mrs B Broad 10-11-1	P Midgley (7)	—

BETTING: 6-4 Wensleydalewilliam, 2-1 Happyoats, 5-2 Lothian Captain, 8-1 Bowlands Way, 16-1 Colonial Lord, 50-1 Charlene Lady.

1990: WOODCHESTER GLEN 6-11-7 D Byrne (11-8 fav) A Fowler 7 ran

FORM FOCUS LOTHIAN CAPTAIN, a winner on good ground over 2m and 2m 2f at Kelso earlier in the season, best recent effort 11l 3rd to Mr Woodcock at the same track (2m, good) on penultimate start. COLONIAL LORD has shown decent form in NH Flat races, notably when 2l 2nd to Going On at Wetherby (2m, firm); hurdling debut. HAPPYOATS modest 30l 3rd to Keelby on hurdling debut at Market Rasen (2m 1f, soft). WENSLEYDALEWILLIAM, winner of a Carlisle (2m 1f 110yd, good) NH Flat race, has put up two creditable efforts over hurdles, 5l 2nd to Mig over course and distance (good) latest. CHARLENE LADY 6l 2nd to August at Sedgefield (2m 4f, firm) in September 1987.
Selection: WENSLEYDALEWILLIAM

1.0 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT TAMEROSIA SERIES NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,054: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	2F12F1	CANDLEBRIGHT 14 (D,F,G,S) (Western Meeting Owners) G Richards 7-11-13	N Doughty	90
2	443-306	BRILLIANT WISH 13 (N Jaffer) R Fisher 8-11-6	P Niven	—
3	0	MASTER WOODVILLE 20 (S Rettie) Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-6	Mr J Bradburne	—
4	133-32P	SCARNING DALE 15 (S) (W Monteith) P Monteith 8-11-6	L O'Hara (3)	● 99
5	1-41420	STAGS FELL 37 (F,G) (R Johnson) G Moore 8-11-6	M Dwyer	—
6	1341-62	WAIT YOU THERE 30 (F,G) (H Alexander) H Alexander 6-11-6	A Orkney	86
7		HOOTS MON (Mrs D Thomson) Mrs D Thomson 8-11-1	Mr D Mactaggart (7)	—
8	UP04	WILLOW WOOD 15 (Mrs B Thomson) A Thomson 10-11-1	C Hawkins	—
9	323	OVER THE DEEL 34 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 5-10-10	Mr K Johnson	—

BETTING: 5-2 Scarning Dale, 3-1 Over The Deel, 7-2 Candlebright, 4-1 Stags Fell, 6-1 Wait You There, 20-1 Brilliant Wish, 25-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS CANDLEBRIGHT beat Marcellina 2½l at Hexham (2m 4f, good to soft). BRILLIANT WISH best effort this season when 25l 3rd to Major Fred over hurdles at Southwell (2m 4f, AW). Well-beaten over fences over 2m (good) here latest. SCARNING DALE, pulled up over hurdles latest, previously 2l 2nd to Lightwater Again at Sedgefield (2m, good to soft). STAGS FELL, a fair hurdler, won over 2m (good) at Sedgefield earlier in the season. Creditable 14l 7th to Macho Man at Hexham (2m, good) latest; makes chasing debut. WAIT YOU THERE 3½l 2nd to Last 'O' The Bunch at Catterick (2m, good to firm). WILLOW WOOD, pulled up over fences at Hexham (3m, good) in November, 25l 4th over hurdles at Kelso (2m 6f, good to soft) latest. OVER THE DEEL makes chasing debut after showing ability over hurdles this season, most recently when 4½l 3rd to Otterburn House at Wetherby (3m, good to firm).
Selection: CANDLEBRIGHT

1.30 BROUGHTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,322: 2m) (6 runners)

1	2-66103	LOGAMIMO 9 (CD,F,G) (J Hellens) J Hellens 5-11-12	A Orkney	86
2	131013	EASY OVER 13 (CD,F,G) (Miss V Foster) G Moore 5-11-11	M Dwyer	85
3	240112-	COSMIC RAY 247 (D,F) (P Aconley) Mrs V Aconley 6-10-11	J Corkell (7)	84
4	233-300	OUTSTANDING BILL 41 (D,F) (K Smith) J Jefferson 5-10-1	B Dalton (7)	● 99
5	25-P	KWACHA 13 (T Craig) T Craig 5-10-0	C Hawkins	75
6	2023/P/	RUPERT'S DAUGHTER 587 (K Holder) Mrs J Jordan 8-10-0	B Storey	—

Long handicap: Kwacha 9-8, Rupert's Daughter 8-13.

BETTING: 11-10 Easy Over, 7-4 Logamimo, 5-1 Outstanding Bill, 6-1 Cosmic Ray, 25-1 Kwacha, 50-1 Rupert's Daughter.

1990: PALM HOUSE 5-12-0 G McCourt (2-1 fav) G Richards 6 ran

FORM FOCUS LOGAMIMO disappointing 40l 3rd to Windward Ariom at Sedgefield (2m, soft). Put up much better display when beating subsequent scorer Al Sramikh a head at Newcastle (2m, good). EASY OVER 12l 3rd to dead-heaters Miami Bear and Tharsis over 2m 4f (good) here. Earlier beat Good Mood 3l over course and distance (good) with a below-par LOGAMIMO (5lb worse off) 20l 8th. COSMIC RAY 3l 2nd to Achiltibuie at Kelso (2m 2f, hard). OUTSTANDING BILL best of some moderate efforts this season a 25½l 3rd to Azusa at Carlisle (2m 1f 110yd, firm). KWACHA best efforts over hurdles when 8l 2nd to High Faith at Worcester (2m, firm).
Selection: EASY OVER

2.0 AUCHENGRAY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,535: 3m) (7 runners)

1	85U112	EASTERN OASIS 20 (BF,F,G,S) (J Andrews) J Andrews 8-11-10	R Fahey	97
2	252323	BOBBIE STACK 13 (F,G) (I Dalgleish) J J O'Neill 7-11-10	M Dwyer	91
3	P-6324F	EASTERN MINSTREL 28 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 7-11-6	Mr K Johnson	85
4	1-44F33	TYPHOON LUCY 14 (F) (G Stevenson) Mrs G Reveley 7-11-2	P Niven	87
5	535-864	ANOTHER STRIPLIGHT 41 (Niland Construction Co Ltd) P Blockley 8-10-13	P Midgley (7)	● 99
6	03/03F	TEREBINTH 15 (Exors of Mr J Herdman) J Charlton 8-10-6	B Storey	80
7	52-4463	HI WALLIE 20 (S) (Mrs V Watson) R Allan 9-10-6	R Marley	91

BETTING: 7-4 Eastern Oasis, 3-1 Eastern Minstrel, 4-1 Bobbie Stack, 5-1 Typhoon Lucy, 8-1 Another Striplight, 16-1 Hi Wallie, 20-1 Terebinth.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS EASTERN OASIS head 2nd to subsequent winner Simple Pleasure here (2m 4f, good) on chasing debut with HI WALLIE (same terms) 12l 3rd; previously beat Yorkshire Holly 6l in a handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 6f, soft). BOBBIE STACK 9½l 3rd to Edberg in maiden chase here (2m, good) latest; previously 4l 2nd to Maudlins Cross here (2m, good) with TEREBINTH (same terms) 8l 3rd. EASTERN MINSTREL fell 2 out and remounted to finish 4th to Pat's Jester at Ayr (3m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start; 15l 2nd to What About Me at Newcastle (3m, good) in November. TYPHOON LUCY 8½l 3rd to Candlebright at Hexham (2m 4f, good to soft) latest; previously staying-on 8l 3rd to Lightwater Again at Sedgefield (2m, good to soft). ANOTHER STRIPLIGHT 42l 4th to Royal Battery at Market Rasen (4m, good); previously 14l 6th to Gattertown at Towcester (3m 190yd, good).
Selection: EASTERN OASIS

2.30 MUSSELBURGH LINKS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,779: 2m) (9 runners)

1	842	AL FROLIC 14 (J Glass) P Monteith 11-0	L O'Hara (3)	82
2		CUMBRIAN CEILIDH 125F (Robison Bros) L Lungo 11-0	N Doughty	—
3	0	GRANITTON BAY 8 (D Gill) Miss J Barclay 11-0	D Nolan	—
4	5	IRISH FLASHER 9 (J Johnston) J Jefferson 11-0	B Dalton (7)	—
5	3	ROBINS SON 8 (Robinson Publications Limited) Jimmy Fitzgerald 11-0	M Dwyer	● 99
6	4	SOUTER'S HILL 15 (I Anderson) T Craig 11-0	C Hawkins	91
7	6F0	TASKFORCE FIXED IT 15 (A Dawson) J Haldane 11-0	P Niven	—
8	05	WESTERN SECRET 13 (J Wilson) J S Wilson 11-0	R Fahey	83
9		DEPARTURE 90F (H Alexander) H Alexander 10-9	A Orkney	—

BETTING: 5-4 Robins Son, 4-1 Western Secret, 5-1 Souter's Hill, 6-1 Al Frolic, 8-1 Irish Flasher, 10-1 Cumbrian Ceilidh, 14-1 Departure, 16-1 Granitton Bay, 25-1 Taskforce Fixed It.

1990: EASY OVER 11-0 M Dwyer (8-11 fav) G Moore 5 ran

FORM FOCUS AL FROLIC 4l 2nd to useful Montpelier Lad at Hexham (2m, soft) latest. CUMBRIAN CEILIDH beat Fellow Deer a neck in Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm) Flat seller in August. IRISH FLASHER never nearer 31l 5th to Leven Baby in Sedgefield (2m, soft) claimer. ROBINS SON 12l 2nd (placed 3rd) to Reve de Valse at Wetherby (2m, soft) with GRANITTON BAY distant 14th. SOUTER'S HILL 24½l 4th to Marlingford at Kelso (2m, good to soft) with TASKFORCE FIXED IT tailed off 11th. WESTERN SECRET led until 2 out when a 16½l 5th to Mig at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good).
Selection: ROBINS SON (nap)

3.0 NARBOL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,238: 2m) (4 runners)

1	22PP-14	MASTER SALESMAN 6 (CD,F,G) (J Walton) F Walton 8-12-0	L O'Hara	97
2	222F82	ABSONANT 20 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs E Bradley) G Moore 9-11-7	J Callaghan	● 99
3	1426	NICE MANA 20 (F) (R Sanson) P Blockley 6-11-0	P Midgley	—
4	0634F-2	JELLY JILL 32 (R Allan) R Allan 8-10-10	J O'Gorman	97

BETTING: 6-4 Master Salesman, 2-1 Absonant, 9-4 Jelly Jill, 8-1 Nice Mana.

1990: PURA MONEY 8-11-11 L O'Hara (5-2) G Richards 5 ran

FORM FOCUS MASTER SALESMAN beat ABSONANT (4lb better off) 2l over course and distance (good) on reappearance; mistake last when a fair 31l 4th to useful Moment of Truth in valuable Newcastle (2m, good) novice chase latest. ABSONANT 18½l 6th to Shoon Wind at Hexham (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start. NICE MANA 3l 2nd to Glebelands Girl in Uttoxeter (2m, good) selling handicap hurdle on penultimate start. Chasing debut. JELLY JILL caught close home when a 2½l 2nd to Incense in similar race on Kelso (2m 196yd, good) reappearance.
Selection: MASTER SALESMAN

3.30 FIRST OF MANY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,841: 2m) (12 runners)

1	0	CAMEROON BAY 48 (Mrs S Catherwood) G Richards 5-11-10	N Leech (7)	—
2		FIVE FELLOWS (D Andrew) G Richards 5-11-10	D Berry (7)	—
3		JIMMY RINGO (C Bircham) G Moore 5-11-10	J Callaghan (3)	—
4	0-0	OLD MORTALITY 44 (R Thomson) R Allan 5-11-10	D Dunne (7)	—
5	0-	PAMELA'S LAD 251 (Mrs P Cooper) M Hammond 5-11-10	S Taylor (7)	—
6	0	ROCKET LAUNCHER 44 (W O'Gorman) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-10	W Dwan (7)	—
7	3	MOUNT AILEY 28 (Miss L Helliwell) Mrs V Aconley 5-11-5	J Corkell (7)	—
8		SNOWY KITE (B Samson) R Whitaker 5-11-5	N Smith (5)	—
9		CAPRONI (V) (W McHarg) J S Wilson 4-11-0	L O'Hara (3)	—
10		GLOSSY (G Reed) C Thornton 4-11-0	F Murtagh (7)	—
11		INCONCLUSIVE (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 4-11-0	J O'Gorman (3)	—
12		CARN MAIRG (Caledonian Racing Club) J Jefferson 4-10-9	B Dalton (7)	—

BETTING: 2-1 Glossy, 3-1 Cameroon Bay, 4-1 Rocket Launcher, 6-1 Mount Ailey, 8-1 Caproni, 10-1 Five Fellows, 16-1 others.

1990: FLOWING RIVER 4-10-7 J Callaghan (20-1) R Allan 15 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
C Thornton	4	12	33.3	M Dwyer	18	53	34.0
Jimmy Fitzgerald	14	49	28.6	P Niven	23	92	25.0
Mrs G Reveley	14	64	21.9	A Orkney	5	23	21.7
P Blockley	4	23	17.4	J Callaghan	4	24	16.7
G Moore	8	46	17.4	R Fahey	5	32	15.6
J Wilson	5	43	11.6	N Doughty	4	32	12.5

Ferox launches Cecil's career

Cecil: Southwell debut as first-season trainer

JULIE Cecil begins her training career at Southwell today vowing that it will be just like any other day at the races. Mrs Cecil saddles her first runner when Ferox runs in the Fordham Handicap at the all-weather Nottinghamshire track.

She said: "I shall approach the day the same as I have always approached a day's racing. I will be nervous — who wouldn't be? And my mother has arrived, so that will make me even more nervous."

Mrs Cecil decided to join the training ranks in December 1989 when her marriage to champion trainer Henry Cecil broke up. They were divorced last year.

Based at the Southgate stables in Newmarket formerly used by Ian Matthews, Mrs Cecil has the perfect credentials to be a success in her new career.

She is the daughter of former top trainer Sir Noel Murless and acted as work rider and adviser to her former husband at Warren Place, Newmarket.

Today, the Paul Eddery-ridden Ferox, once trained by Henry Cecil and last season by David Elsworth, carries the hopes of Mrs Cecil and her team at Southgate. The five-year-old is likely to start favourite.

"I hope he runs all right. Once he joined us I always thought he would be the right type to run on the all-weather," she said.

Mrs Cecil is unsure at this stage whether any of the others from her string will race on the all-weather this winter.

Richards recovers well with 12-1 Ayr double

GORDON Richards has suffered a few disappointments recently, as several of his string are currently beset with blood disorders, but the Greystoke-based trainer stormed back to form yesterday with a 12-1 double at Ayr.

Both the Richards winners, Abbot Of Furness (13-2) in the Dalrymple Novices' Hurdle and Impale (8-11) in the Kingcaidston Novices' Chase, were partnered with great determination by Neale Doughty.

Abbot Of Furness attracted one notable bet of £1,000 each-way, and made most of the running. He disposed of the odds-on Fishki easily and then held off a late flourish by Eastern Whisper to score by six lengths.

Half-an-hour later, Impale overcame a mistake going down the back straight for the last time before beating Back Before Dark by 2½ lengths.

Sue Bradburne, whose Cupar-based team numbers just 15, had three runners at the two-day new year meeting and all three won in the hands of the trainer's husband, John.

General Chandos collected the McAlpine Challenge Cup Handicap Chase at the Scottish course on Wednesday, and his victory was supplemented yesterday by Dawn Coyote (7-1) in the Stair Handicap Hurdle and Interim Lib (11-8) in the Dunure Intermediate Handicap Chase.

Interim Lib, jumping superbly throughout, made virtually all to beat The Antartex by five lengths and give Edinburgh lawyer Robert Henderson a success from his only horse in training.

Plenty Crack, from an even smaller yard, took the Kilmarnock Handicap Chase by 12 lengths from Aston Express. His Hawick-based trainer Bruce Mactaggart has a string of only six, so was obviously delighted by this 3-1 success.

Celtic Shot in line-up for Newton Chase

CELTIC SHOT is a definite runner in tomorrow's £50,000 added Newton Chase at Haydock Park.

His trainer Charlie Brooks had been undecided about the nine-year-old's participation but after a visit to his Lambourn stable from Celtic Shot's owner, David Horton, said: "The owner came to see the horse this morning and was quite happy with the way he was. He definitely runs at Haydock, weather permitting."

Celtic Shot, a former champion hurdler, was a disappointing fourth behind Desert Orchid in the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day and is set to renew rivalry with the Martin Pipe-trained Sabin Du Loir, who fell when leading seven out.

Other intended runners in the 2½-mile Haydock event are the 1990 Gold Cup winner Norton's Coin, making his first appearance of the season, Captain Mor and Phoenix Gold.

SOUTHWELL

Selections

By Mandarin
12.40 Ferox.
1.10 Tempering.
1.40 Stairway To Heaven.
2.10 Marsh's Law.
2.40 Crystal Heights.
3.10 Honing Stone.

By Thunderer
12.40 Ferox.
1.10 Tempering.
1.40 Stairway To Heaven.
2.10 Mia Fillia.
2.40 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS (nap).
3.10 Honing Stone.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.10 HONING STONE (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.40 STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN.

Going: standard **SIS**

12.40 CHATSWORTH HANDICAP (£2,456: 5f) (9 runners) D Nicholls 96

1	(1)	821443-	GLENCROFT 20 (B,CD,F,G,S) (D Chapman) D Chapman 7-10-0	Paul Eddery	96
2	(7)	600102-	FEROX 29 (D,G) (Lord Robin Russell) Mrs J Cecil 5-9-12	Emma O'Gorman (5)	89
3	(4)	081223-	SALLY'S SON 133 (B,D,F) (W O'Gorman) W O'Gorman 5-9-0	R P Elliott	● 99
4	(3)	22005-	SIMPLE TRUTH 50 (B Yeardley Continental Ltd) M Johnston 4-8-12	L Charnock	95
5	(5)	400025-	NORTH OF WATFORD 5 (F,G,S) (D) (Mrs H Wane) K McCauley 6-8-11	S Wood (3)	—
6	(2)	000005/	PATCON 473 (D,F,S) (W Spink) T Barron 8-8-5	S Maloney (5)	—
7	(3)	020204/	PREVAILING WIND 486 (M Brittain) M Brittain 5-8-4	G Duffield	98
8	(6)	604422-	MORPICK 5 (H Pickering) J Leigh 4-8-1	NON-RUNNER	—
9	(8)	614030-	MIA SCINTILLA 6 (CD,G) (Mrs Z Grant) S Bowring 5-7-8		

BETTING: 11-4 Ferox, 3-1 Glencroft, 7-2 Sally's Son, 5-1 Morpick, 10-1 North Of Watford, 14-1 Simple Truth, 20-1 Prevailing Wind, 25-1 Patcon.

1990: HINARI VIDEO 5-7-12 T Williams (6-4 fav) M Johnston 6 ran

1.10 BURGHLEY HANDICAP (£2,413: 1m 3f) (9 runners) D Nicholls ● 99

1	(4)	51555-1	TEMPERING 2 (CD,F) (M Hill) D Chapman 5-10-5 (5ex)	NON-RUNNER	—
2	(2)	0021-	ACHELOUS 35 (CD) (W Derry) J Glover 4-9-13	S Wood (3)	90
3	(3)	3315/00-	VITE VITE 23 (F) (E Robinson) D Morrill 5-9-12	T Williams	88
4	(5)	251116-	SHARQUIN 153 (F,G) (M Murphy) M Brittain 4-8-8	Emma O'Gorman (5)	96
5	(7)	40000-0	BEDOUIN PRINCE 2 (M Toulson) J Harris 4-8-7	A Mackay	90
6	(1)	565005-	PRINCESS ROXANNE 16 (B) (K Parker) A Bailey 4-8-4	L Charnock	93
7	(6)	533064-	MACCONACHIE 6 (W Spink) T Barron 4-8-0	J Quinn	88
8	(9)	00/0020-	FIRE LADY 179 (R Biller) J Jenkins 5-7-12	Jaki Houston (7)	94
9	(5)	532005-	COCKED HAT GIRL 6 (A Bell) S Bowring 4-7-7		

Long handicap: Cocked Hat Girl 7-0.

BETTING: 7-4 Tempering, 4-1 Sharquin, 6-1 Fire Lady, Macconachie, 8-1 Princess Roxanne, 10-1 Vite Vite, 14-1 Bedouin Prince, 20-1 Cocked Hat Girl.

1990: TIMSOLO 7-8-7 G Carter (6-4 fav) C Tinkler 5 ran

1.40 PHILIPS ANALYTICAL CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,543: 7f) (8 runners)

1	(1)	400120-	GREEN'S SEAGO 6 (D Emery) J Harris 9-2	J Quinn	82
2	(2)	0408-	BROWN AS A BERRY 8 (B) (Mrs S Rogers) Mrs L Piggott 8-9	B Crossley	77
3	(3)	046621-	PING PONG 22 (C) (T Fairhurst) T Fairhurst 8-9	J Fanning (5)	88
4	(6)	210131-	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN 6 (C,D,F,S) (W Spink) T Barron 8-9	Alex Greaves (5)	● 99
5	(8)	3133-	BROAD APPEAL 124 (F) (J Boughey) M Bell 8-8	J J O'Dwyer (7)	93
6	(7)		FRAGILE EARTH (Shadowfax Racing) C Allen 8-7	R Morse	—
7	(5)	0-	MALTBY HYUNDAI 154 (Claremont Management Services) R King 8-4	D Biggs	—
8	(4)	020400-	CAERULIA 45 (J Purcell) W Pearce 8-1	S Buckton	84

BETTING: 8-11 Stairway To Heaven, 5-1 Ping Pong, 6-1 Broad Appeal, 8-1 Green's Seago, 10-1 Brown As A Berry, 20-1 Caerulia, Fragile Earth, 25-1 Maltby Hyundai.

1990: PSYCHO SONNY 8-5 R Morse (13-2) C Allen 6 ran

2.10 OSBERTON MAIDEN CLAIMING STAKES (4-Y-O: £2,543: 7f) (14 runners)

1	(12)	504335-	YEOMAN BID 8 (B) (D Ivory) K Ivory 8-5	G Bardwell	● 99
2	(11)	003606-	DORSEY 16 (B) (P Felden) P Felden 8-3	G Duffield	78
3	(14)	082000-	AL BADETO 6 (A Watson) J Norton 8-2	A Mackay	83
4	(13)	060632-	MARSH'S LAW 56 (B) (A Moore) J Wharton 8-2	P Walsh	86
5	(6)	060-	PETITE ELITE 17 (E) (J Fitzgerald) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-2	L Charnock	72
6	(7)	0000-	MISS EMMAJANE 34J (B) (T Wainwright) J O'Shea 8-0	S Wood (3)	64
7	(1)	00-	TINAZ 20 (Mrs W Ong) H Collingridge 8-0	J Quinn	—
8	(10)	503406-	DANNY BLANCHFLOWER 7J (G Tully) P Felgate 7-13	G Hind (3)	72
9	(3)		MERSEY RACING (G Starkey) T Caldwell 7-13	F Norton (7)	—
10	(9)	200005-	SINGH HOLME 16 (A Chandler) S Harris 7-13	T Williams	—
11	(4)	00/600-	JOHANNA THYME 6 (J Zanre) R Bastiman 7-12	H Bastiman (7)	—
12	(8)	046240-	MIA FILLIA 44J (Full Circle Thoroughbreds G Plc) N Tinkler 7-10	Kim Tinkler	94
13	(5)	0-	MISS WAGER 77 (R Ball) Miss G Rees 7-8	A Mackay	—
14	(2)	0/P0063-	ZHIVAGO'S PASSION 34J (Mrs J Morris-Lowe) J Ringer 7-8	Dale Gibson	—

BETTING: 11-4 Mia Fillia, 4-1 Marsh's Law, 5-1 Yeoman Bid, 6-1 Singh Holme, 8-1 Dorsey, Petite Elite, 10-1 Zhivago's Passion, 16-1 Miss Emmajane, 20-1 Miss Wager, 25-1 others.

1990: PREDICTABLE 8-3 A Culhane (4-1 fav) R Whitaker 15 ran

2.40 DESIGN CONTRACTORS MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,478: 1m) (7 runners)

1	(6)	03-	CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 65 (A Foustok) W O'Gorman 9-0	Emma O'Gorman (5)	● 99
2	(7)	00600-	KHOJOHN 105 (C Barber-Lomax) W Elsey 9-0	G Baxter	70
3	(4)		MONTBARD (A Henderson) J Wharton 9-0	J Williams	—
4	(3)	00-	ROBERTY LEA 86 (B) (D Bowker) T Fairhurst 9-0	J Fanning (5)	70
5	(1)		SET UP (F Salman) M Bell 9-0	G Duffield	—
6	(5)		ANCHOR INN (B) (D Dick) A Lee 8-9	J Quinn	—
7	(2)	030020-	MIDAS BLUE 8 (B) (J Edwards) A Bailey 8-9	A Mackay	83

BETTING: 4-6 Crystal Heights, 9-2 Set Up, 6-1 Midas Blue, 10-1 Roberty Lea, 12-1 Khojohn, 16-1 Anchor Inn, 25-1 Montbard.

1990: SALMON SPARKLE 9-0 A McGlone (5-1) P Walwyn 6 ran

3.10 BADMINTON APPRENTICE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,630: 1m) (13 runners)

1	(6)	030521-	HONING STONE 8 (CD) (Shadowfax Racing) C Allen 9-12 (7ex)	Mick Denaro (5)	● 99
2	(11)	505-	GRECIAN REBEL 107 (E Biddulph) M Bell 9-10	J J O'Dwyer (5)	88
3	(2)	0005-	CASTLE MERLIN 6 (T Mallor) R Muddle 9-7	T Ashley (7)	85
4	(1)	006-	MERCHANT OF VENICE 16 (B) (Hambleton Racing) W Pearce 9-2	E Husband (7)	87
5	(4)	0066-	BULLET PROOF 20 (R Dollar) P Howling 9-2	J Fanning	86
6	(13)	400-	POIRE DU NORD 80 (S Reskes) R Hollinshead 8-11	M Humphries (7)	80
7	(10)	000-	CORYPHEE 50 (B) (Sir George Burns) M Prescott 8-9	Emma O'Gorman	93
8	(8)	600500-	WANE'S SECRET 35 (B) (Wane Garages Ltd) K McCauley 8-7	H Bastiman (7)	82
9	(7)	00004-	ECONOMY EXPRESS 17 (Economy Print) W Musson 8-6	B Doyle (5)	87
10	(12)	005000-	ANDERSON ROSE 6 (J Holmes) M Chapman 8-6	J Fordham (7)	83
11	(5)	5020-	FIRST EMERALD 56 (Mrs L Graham) N Graham 8-6	S Mulvey (7)	98
12	(9)	030600-	PEDANTRY 82 (C Booth) D Chapman 8-5	G Parkin (7)	96
13	(3)	40600-	BRERA 8 (E) (T Hirschfeld) Mrs L Piggott 8-1	G Milligan (7)	96

BETTING: 5-2 Honing Stone, 9-2 First Emerald, 6-1 Economy Express, 7-1 Pedantry, 8-1 Bullet Proof, Grecian Rebel, 10-1 Brera, Coryphee, 12-1 Wane's Secret, 16-1 others.

1990: CAVALLA 9-5 G Husband (7-4 fav) R Hollinshead 8 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
W O'Gorman	11	33	33.3	Alex Greaves	31	81	38.3
T Barron	30	96	31.3	Emma O'Gorman	10	32	31.3
Jimmy Fitzgerald	7	35	20.0	P Walsh	5	33	15.2
M Bell	4	20	20.0	B Crossley	8	56	14.3
M Prescott	5	36	13.5	J Fanning	3	22	13.6
W Pearce	3	22	13.5	G Duffield	18	133	13.5

Results from yesterday's four meetings

● Thunderer had some good-priced winners yesterday, including Abbot Of Furness (13-2) at Ayr and Carnwath (5-1) at Lingfield.

Ayr

Going: heavy

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, ABBOT OF FURNESS (N Doughty, 13-2); 2, Eastern Whisper (D Crossman, 10-1); 3, Fishki (D Bentley, 8-13 fav). ALSO RAN: 8 Thistle Monarch (5th), 14 Kambalda Rambler (4th), 33 Malpiero (pu), North Pride, 50 Abercromby Chief (6th), 100 Mantoc, Silly Judge. 10 ran. 8l, 3½l, 8l, nk, 4l. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £6.40; £1.50, £1.10, £7.20. DF: £15.10. CSF: £59.21.

1.0 (2m 4f ch) 1, IMPALE (N Doughty, 8-11 fav); 2, Back Before Dark (G Thomson, 6-1); 3, Ah Jim Lad (L O'Hara, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Keoni (f), 25 Celtic Somers (4th). 5 ran. 2½l, 30l, dist. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £1.60. DF: £2.30. CSF: £4.75.

1.30 (3m 2f hdle) 1, DAWN COYOTE (Mr J Bradburne, 7-1); 2, Hardihero (N Doughty, 3-1 jt-fav); 3, Wicinga (D Grossman, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 3 jt-fav Sonny One Shine (pu), 7-2 Home To Roost (4th), 33 Zam's Slave (pu). 6 ran. 8l, ¾l, dist. Mrs S Bradburne at Cupar. Tote: £6.30; £2.50, £1.20. DF: £13.30. CSF: £25.49.

2.0 (3m 110yd ch) 1, PLENTY CRACK (B Storey, 3-1); 2, Aston Express (N Doughty, 8-11 fav); 3, Aden Apollo (C Hawkins, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 12 Brownhill Lass (4th). 4 ran. 12l, 12l, 30l. B Mactaggart at Hawick. Tote: £3.40. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.32.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, INTERIM LIB (Mr J Bradburne, 11-8 fav); 2, The Antartex (N Doughty, 9-4); 3, Mercurius (B Storey, 9-4). 3 ran. 5l, dist. Mrs S Bradburne at Cupar. Tote: £2.00. DF: £1.80. CSF: £3.92.

3.0 (2m hdle) 1, REGAL ESTATE (D J Moffatt, 4-1); 2, Pendley Gold (L O'Hara, 11-2); 3, Burn Bridge (D Bentley, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 3 jt-favs Stay Awake (pu), Warwick Suite (4th). 5 ran. 20l, 2l, 6l. D Moffatt at Cartmel. Tote: £2.90; £1.80, £1.70. DF: £4.30. CSF: £20.94.

Placepot: £106.90.

Nottingham

Going: good (chase course): soft hurdles)

12.45 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Forget The Rest (M Dwyer, 7-4 fav); 2, Queen Of Sparta (8-1); 3, Woodland Minstrel (7-1). 13 ran. 7l, dist. J FitzGerald. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £2.30, £2.80. DF: £27.10. CSF: £16.63.

1.15 (2m 6f ch) 1, Elvercone (C Maude, 2-1); 2, Comra (13-8 fav); 3, Rambling Echo (5-2). 4 ran. 2l, dist. A J Wilson. Tote: £2.30. DF: £3.10. CSF: £5.22.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, Spirit Away (G McCourt, 13-8 jt-fav); 2, Spider Woman (14-1); 3, Grey Merlin (13-8 jt-fav). 13 ran. 30l, 4l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £15.70. CSF: £24.64.

2.15 (2m 6f ch) 1, Parsons Green (S Smith Eccles, 7-2); 2, Granny's Bay (13-2); 3, Fifth Amendment (10-11 fav). 8 ran. NR: Lady Seeker. 10l, 7l. N Henderson. Tote: £4.70; £1.70, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £4.50. CSF: £24.87.

2.45 (3m 4f ch) 1, Green Tops (S Turner, 20-1); 2, Snowfire Chap (15-8 fav); 3, Farm Week (11-1). 10 ran. NRs: Classey Boy, Ardent Spy. 2½l, 10l. M Avison. Tote: £9.30; £2.20, £1.70, £2.50. DF: £15.50. CSF: £54.18. Tricast: £411.53.

3.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Viridian (T Morgan, 9-1); 2, Drowsy (9-1); 3, Torkabar (7-1). Dat Train 5-2 fav. 11 ran. 10l, 12l. Mrs A King. Tote: £7.80; £1.80, £1.80, £8.10. DF: £22.80. CSF: £81.69. Tricast: £550.27.

Placepot: £74.00.

Sedgefield

Going: soft

1.0 (3m 2f 160yd hdle) 1, Tulum (R Hodge, 11-10 fav); 2, Majestic Gollie (8-1); 3, Montax Dancer (33-1). 12 ran. NR: Orwell Opinion. 8l, 7l. Mrs G Reveley. Tote: £2.30; £1.90, £5.10, £5.30. DF: £10.30. CSF: £10.72.

1.30 (3m 2f 160yd ch) 1, Green Archer (Mr S Swiers, 4-1); 2, Norton Warrior (7-4 jt-fav); 3, Into The Mystic (4-1). Rubika 7-4 jt-fav. 4 ran. Hd, 20l. Mrs J Ramsden. Tote: £6.80. DF: £4.80. CSF: £10.75.

2.0 (2m ch) 1, Unex-Plained (J Callaghan, 2-1); 2, Ainsty Fox (4-1); 3, Infinity Rules (20-21 fav) 3. 4 ran. 4l, dist. G Moore. Tote: £3.10. DF: £6. CSF: £8.84.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, O'Reilly (M Perrett, 13-8 fav); 2, Mowthorpe (2-1); 3, Fighting Finish (7-2). 8 ran. 5l, 1l. S Mellor. Tote: £3.10; £1.30, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £3.30. CSF: £5.42.

3.0 (2m 4f) 1, Trubilion (M Perrett, 5-2); 2, Vestal Hills (14-1); 3, Gymcrak Stardom (5-4 fav). 13 ran. NR: Big Cahoona. ¾l, 1½l. S Mellor. Tote: £3.90; £2.00, £3.10, £1.70. DF: £2.60. CSF: £37.50. Gymcrak Stardom finished second but after a stewards' enquiry was placed third.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Integrity Boy (R Hodge, 15-8 fav); 2, Premier Princess (2-1); 3, Spark Of Peace (5-2). 5 ran. NR: Flying Dancer. 20l, dist. R O'Leary. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £1.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £5.66.

Placepot: £79.10.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.40 (2m hdle) 1, Counterpunch (A Tory, 12-1); 2, Shipped On Board (12-1); 3, Henfold Lane (25-1). Sleepline Romany 5-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Coombesbury Lane. 20l, 2l. K Bailey. Tote: £17.20; £3.90, £3.90, £13.50. DF (winner or second with any other): £4.10. CSF: £122.57.

1.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Chanakee (M Foster, evens fav); 2, Caroles Clown (16-1); 3, Solitary Reaper (9-1). 6 ran. 2l, 12l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £2.00. DF: £3.40. CSF: £13.99.

1.40 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Go South (M Ahern, 10-11 fav); 2, Poona Express (10-1); 3, Pop Dancer (6-1). 5 ran. ½l, 8l. J Jenkins. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £2.70. DF: £7.60. CSF: £8.98. NR: Panel Game.

2.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, New Arrangement (R Goldstein, 11-10 fav); 2, King William (2-1); 3, Barley Mow (5-1). 4 ran. 8l, 8l. J Jenkins. Tote: £2.00. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.62.

2.40 (2m hdle) 1, Curious Feeling (M Bosley, 10-1); 2, Taranga (16-1); 3, Arctic Ken (12-1). No Bonus, Breezy Sailor 5-2 jt-favs. 7 ran. 15l, ¾l. J Bosley. Tote: £5.20; £1.20, £6.20. DF: £28.70. CSF: £113.76.

3.10 (2m flat) 1, Carnwath (P O'Leary, 5-1); 2, Marshall Sparks (9-2); 3, Dancing Oats (4-1). Ile De Soo 2-1 fav. 10 ran. 1l, 30l. C Brittain. Tote: £6.80; £3.10, £3.30, £1.40. DF: £24.60. CSF: £32.38. NR: Wayward Sailor.

Placepot: £660.40.

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Great to be down-under breakfasting on hope

JOHN WOODCOCK

Sydney
IF ONE man's idea of heaven is "eating pâtés de foie gras to the sound of trumpets", another's could well be arriving in Sydney to watch England play Australia at cricket. Even when, as now, one side seems decidedly stronger than the other, the prospect has a very special appeal.

By perseverence, and not without much suffering, Allan Border and Bobby Simpson have built Australia's best team since the middle seventies. For England to get back on to level terms with them now would be a remarkable achievement, but there are worse grounds on which to set about it. Twice in the last six years, Australia have turned the tables there on West Indian sides much better than themselves.

Almost inevitably, one hears of depression within the England camp, though it is not, I think, entirely of their own making. They have obviously been dreadfully unlucky with injuries, which I *shall* come back to later, and there is understandable resentment over the programme to which the Test and County Cricket Board committed them, a legacy of the quite indiscriminate raid which Mr Packer led on the traditional game.

It is also, I am afraid, a very different proposition winning Test matches in Australia in 1991 than it was in 1936-37, the only Ashes tour on which one side, after losing the first two Tests, has won the last three. In those days there had to be a winner, the matches being timeless. The fourth Test of that 1936-37 series had lasted for the equivalent of 520 six-ball overs when a result was achieved. Today's are scheduled to last for 450 overs, and even that is not a compulsory figure.

I began by thinking that the ten successive one-day matches which England were obliged to play immediately after the first Test *might* be a *useful* way of giving most of them more cricket than they would otherwise have had, and so sorting out some of their problems. Instead, they made matters worse. Watching the television from Brisbane, as England, chasing Australia's 283 for five from 50 overs, stumbled from 104 for one to 151 for five, was to see what havoc the one-day game can do, *technically* and temperamentally, to players already short of conviction.

A good enough side will usually prevail, however unsuitable its itinerary may seem. I recall leaving Brisbane after England had been annihilated in the first Test of the 1954-55 tour and wondering how they could possible be expected to repair the damage of that when they had only two picnic games (1,000 miles apart) and one four-day match against Victoria before the second Test began. That they managed it was because of their ability as cricketers.

Nor had they been exposed by then to the perils and temptations of limited-overs cricket. That particular MCC side, captained by Hutton, was in fact full of potentially brilliant one-day players — but if they had to prove it, they would no doubt have been thrown at times into confusion. Just as a week of battling with a gale can dismantle a golfer's game, so the helter-skelter of these one-day jamborees can disrupt a cricketer's.

But Graham Gooch's side were always going to find Australia difficult to bowl out twice, especially when a party was chosen of such limited mobility in the field. Amid the relief, not to say euphoria, of actually beating New Zealand and India last summer, the regularity with which, even then, large scores were being made against England, culminating in India's 606 for nine declared at the Oval in August, tended to be glossed over. When England left for Australia, they had conceded totals of over 400 in 12 of their previous 16 Test matches.

Even so, they came to Australia with grounds for optimism. If the re-introduction of David Gower challenged the strictly regimented order established by Gooch and Micky Stewart, his lightness of touch and record against the old enemy had obvious appeal. Smith, Lamb, Atherton and Gooch himself would surely get runs: and as they showed in the Caribbean last winter, there was no shortage of physical courage among the batsmen. What has happened so far has been as disappointing as anything since 1958-59, when a MCC side of all the talents entirely failed to live up to expectations.

Even before the start of the present tour, the operation has seemed to be unhelpfully taut. One has heard awfully little to suggest that the players have been *enjoying themselves*, and when one did, during the first Test match, the circumstances, involving, of all people, Tony Greig and Kerry Packer, bordered on the macabre. Having come into this business when players and press sailed together to Australia, and remembering the cheerfulness of it all, I do view rather warily the way today's teams are made to train as though for the Olympics rather than the Ashes.

As orders are barked across the barrack square, and yet more circuits lapped and press-ups pressed, I find myself wondering whether that really is the way to get the best out of a cricketer's game. It seems to me that it very well may not be: that it may be counter-productive because of the stresses and tensions it creates. It certainly seems to make the players no less prone to injury.

And while I am harking back a little to the days before "bleep tests" were invented, if *I had* ever seen Alec Bedser and Cyril Washbrook sticking out their chests and rubbing them against each other's when England took a wicket on the Sydney Cricket Ground like a pair of doves courting, as I did with two of the present side the other day, I would have supposed I was having a nightmare. No wonder we are no good at cricket, I thought to myself. For all that, though, it is lovely to be here, still breakfasting on hope: and what better, as an alternative to pâté de foie gras and trumpets than a dozen of Sydney's delicious oysters attended by a ten-year-old Semillon from the nearby Hunter River Valley.

ICC set to discuss S African situation

By SIMON WILDE

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is to discuss the recent developments in the game in South Africa at its special *meeting in Melbourne next* week. Colin Cowdrey, the chairman of the ICC, said before departing for Australia yesterday that although the matter is not on the meeting's agenda it is certain to be debated.

Shortly before Christmas, the sport's controlling bodies in the Republic, the South African Cricket Union (SACU) and the South African Cricket Board (SACB), *announced after* a meeting in Port Elizabeth that they intend to merge. The significance of this was emphasised by one of the nine statements of intent issued with the Port Elizabeth declaration: that the proposed new non-racial governing body should "have respect for and obtain recognition from, and the membership of, the ICC".

There are increasing signs that the ICC is prepared to encourage South Africa. David Richards, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, had made it clear that if Cowdrey did not ensure the South African issue was discussed, he would. Richards, however, has cautioned against over-optimism about the proximity of South Africa's international return. The merger between the SACU and the SACB may not be complete until the end of the year, at the earliest.

Krish Mackerdhuj, the SACB president, said about the plans to merge: "We will tell the ICC that while the developments are going on and the political situation is so fluid, if you are setting up programmes for tours for the next ten years, put in South Africa with a question mark."

Another of the statements of intent makes it clear that the SACU is to respect the ICC's wishes by not signing any more overseas professionals to play or coach in South Africa, although the contracts of the dozen or so foreigners active in the Republic *will be honoured. However, the* declaration states: "It will be the responsibility of the newly formed national body, thereafter, to determine the desirability of overseas professional cricketers playing in South Africa."

John Snow keeps a low profile at the ground where he made Australians' blood boil

Vicar's son happy as 'villain'

From ALAN LEE,
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT,
SYDNEY

JOHN Snow strolls anonymously through the streets of Sydney, attracting nothing so much as a sideways glance of recognition. Twenty years ago, things were different. Then, Snow was the man who made Australian blood boil in a way no English fast bowler had done since Harold Larwood.

The analogy continues. Nowadays, Larwood pursues the life of a recluse in the Sydney suburb he incongruously chose as his home post-bodyline. Snow is no hermit but his profile is kept consciously low, in Sydney as in Sussex.

It will stay that way today, when the third Test begins on the ground where his exploits dominated during the 1970-71 tour, the last time England won back the Ashes in Australia. In one Sydney *Test, he took a match-winning* seven for 40: in the other, he hit an Australian tailender on the head, provoking an umpiring confrontation, serious crowd reaction and an England walk-off. He also ended up in hospital. The game was never dull when this son of a *Worcestershire vicar* was around.

Looking at him now, lean, fit and apparently ready to bowl his usual 20 overs with that marvellously fluid action, it hardly seems possible that he will be 50 this year. It also hardly seemed fair to remind him, as he reminisced over the Tests for which he will always be remembered.

"I suppose I was seen as a bit of a villain here," he says with the twinkling smile of one fully aware he was occasionally seen as a villain in the committee rooms of Lord's, too. "But I learned that in Australia, they may hate you, but they will still respect you if you do the business on the field. To be barracked here is a mark of respect."

Test flashpoint: Snow in conflict with Rowan, the umpire, after Jenner had ducked into the England fast bowler's delivery in Sydney in 1971

Snow tells a story of his homeward flight, when invalided out of the tour before the New Zealand leg. "The plane stopped in Darwin and I decided to have a final Australian beer. A fellow at the bar looked at me sharply and said: 'You're John Snow. I've been swearing at you all summer.' Then he insisted on buying me drinks and slapping my back. It summed up the attitude here.

"This had always seemed to me the ultimate place to play cricket. To tour Australia with England had been my great ambition since childhood. Perhaps, in 1970, the Tests created more intensity than they do now. The occasion was bigger because there was no one-day cricket to deflect attention. But that does not mean I necessarily feel things were better then.

"I used to get fed up with county cricket because I wanted to play in front of a crowd, not two men and a dog. For that reason, I would have relished the one-dayers played now. After all, they only take the game back to its roots, and in the course of time I think they may help Test cricket rather than destroy it."

Snow is a quiet, reflective man these days. He has given up the poetry writing which diverted him through his playing career, but he remains far removed from the rebellious image in which he was painted.

His travel business occupies him fully, but he retains rare skills in the communication of coaching, which England could, and should, have utilised in recent years.

He is watching this tour lurch from drama to chaos with more sorrow than anger and, as he reflects on his own series, two decades ago, he points out that roles were fully reversed.

"We were the more experienced side, we took an early lead and then hung onto it without serious injury problems. They hit us in the last Test. Geoff Boycott had his arm in a sling and I joined him before the end of the game."

By then, Snow had been subjected to a torrent of bottles and cans, and the arm-wrestling of a drunk, after Terry Jenner had ducked into a short ball. Ray Illingworth, in Snow's view the best *England captain since* Hutton, controversially led his team off the field.

Two days later, with Australia pursuing a very accessible target to win the game and keep the Ashes, Snow took the first wicket and then, in trying to take a boundary catch, dislocated his right little finger so badly that, despite immediate surgery, it remains disfigured now.

He was showing me the damage yesterday when a waiter came across. "I think," the waiter said, "England should be looking to call up some of its golden oldies tomorrow, don't you?" Snow simply smiled. In the city where he was reviled as a pommie headhunter and respected as a truly great fast bowler, at least someone still knew him.

HOCKEY

St Albans aiming higher in second European contest

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ST ALBANS enter the second European indoor club championship at Limburg, Germany, today with high hopes as they face the Dutch champions, Hattemse, in the first match of *the three-day tournament.*

In the inaugural event last year at Amiens, where there were 16 teams, St Albans finished a disappointing seventh. After winning their first two matches, they drew 8-8 with Madrid and just failed to qualify for the semi-finals as only one team went through from each pool. In the play-offs they lost 14-11 to Pomorzanin, of Poland, their opponents tomorrow in one of the key matches of pool B.

Murray International Metals won the bronze medal last year for Scotland, but this time the Scots are represented by Ruthrieston, also in the same pool as St Albans and scheduled to meet them in the last match today.

There is plenty of skill and experience in the St Albans team with Hurst in goal, Halliday, Jennings and Wisher providing a sound base on which to build their attacks. Anderson, Day, Ferns and Rowley are all capable of turning the fortunes of a match with their zest for work.

*But the winners last year, Rot-*Weiss, of Cologne, will be the side to beat, although they face strong *opposition* from the other German side, Limburger. Amiens, from France, and SP Valdeluz, from Spain, make up the teams in pool A. The winners and runners up of each pool qualify for the semi-finals.

England begin their challenge in the international club tournament today at Arminen, Austria, with a match against Stadtauswahl, of Vienna, and will meet the Spanish national side later in the day. England, however, are without McGuire, Barker and Lee who are playing for British Universities in the Los Reyes outdoor tournament at Barcelona.

ST ALBANS SQUAD: J Hurst, C Aikins, R Davis, G Wisher, M Anderson, P Snelling, M Day, A Halliday (captain), S Port, K Rowley, I Jennings, A Ferns.

Double focus for Ipswich line-up

By ALIX RAMSAY

IPSWICH will go to Cambridge for the East indoor club championships on Sunday with two aims: to qualify for the national finals in February and to gain as much match practice as possible for the European indoor championships in France, also to be held next month.

Ipswich qualified for the *European competition as the* defending national indoor champions last year, although their route to the title was far from easy. They were beaten by Chelmsford in the regional competition before getting their own back over their neighbours in the national semi-finals. From there on, there was no stopping them.

The indoor game started life *as a training exercise, players* looking to improve their stick skills on the artificial surface. Now, with most outdoor matches played on plastic and with a packed competition schedule, the indoor game has outlived its usefulness. This has been reflected in the club championships with three of the East counties — Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire — sending no representatives.

Ipswich will find their main opposition coming from Welwyn Garden City and Chelmsford. However, both these clubs are in the second section for *group matches, which means* Ipswich would not have to face them until the semi-finals, should all go according to form.

Having trained long and hard for Europe, Ipswich are confident of success this weekend and, in theory, ought to win comfortably. But playing the six-a-side game with a high number of substitutions and goals aplenty, matches can take *on something of a cup-tie* atmosphere. Ipswich will be looking to their internationals, Sandy Lister, Sarah Bamfield, Vickey Dixon, Tracy Fry and Helen Bray, to take them through to the national finals at Crystal Palace.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (5pm)	°C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
Igls	5	60	fair	crust	worn	fine	1	2/1
Slopes showing signs of wear								
Kitzbühel	15	70	fair	heavy	worn	sun	5	2/1
Adequate on all higher slopes								
Mayrhofen	50	75	slushy	heavy	closed	fine	3	2/1
Pistes below 2,200m very worn								
Obergurgl	55	140	good	powder	fair	fine	1	2/1
Excellent skiing conditions on upper runs								
Alpe d'Huez	70	210	fair	varied	fair	fine	2	2/1
Very good spring conditions								
Chamonix	35	195	good	crust	closed	fine	4	2/1
Good piste skiing on north facing slopes.								
Flaine	30	180	fair	varied	good	fine	6	2/1
Some icy and rocky patches on lower runs								
Isola	80	120	good	heavy	good	fine	6	10/12
Soft snow on piste, but off piste very heavy.								
La Plagne	80	130	good	varied	good	cloud	2	2/1
All pistes in excellent condition. Some icy patches								
Les Arcs	50	211	good	fair	poor	sun	5	2/1
Warm temperatures reducing lower slopes to slush.								
Tignes	100	210	good	varied	icy	fine	1	2/1
Excellent skiing in fine conditions								
Val d'Isère	80	120	good	heavy	good	fine	0	2/1
Poor off piste and increasing avalanche danger								
Val Thorens	115	225	good	varied	fair	fair	-5	2/1
Excellent skiing conditions on a well formed base								
ITALY								
Cervinia	70	230	good	heavy	good	fine	4	2/1
Heavy conditions								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	50	70	good	heavy	good	fine	2	2/1
Pistes in good condition								
Crans Montana	50	180	good	varied	worn	fine	4	2/1
Warm weather has caused problems on lower slopes								
Davos	25	90	good	varied	fair	fine	2	2/1
Excellent skiing despite warm weather								
Saas Fee	95	200	good	varied	good	fine	3	2/1
Excellent skiing on all pistes. Some queues								
Verbier	15	210	good	varied	poor	fine	8	2/1
South facing slopes becoming slushy								
Zermatt	90	105	good	powder	good	fine	3	2/1
Skiing on upper slopes is excellent								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: Snow level, 1,000ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper and middle complete; lower, new snow. Access roads open; chairlifts, one open; tows, six open. **Glenshee:** Snow level, 1,000ft; vertical runs, 1,000ft. Runs: upper and lower, most complete. Access roads open; chairlifts closed; tows, eight open. **Lecht:** Snow level, 1,000ft; vertical runs, 700ft. Runs: main, most complete. Access roads open, slight snow; tows, most open. **Glencoe:** Snow level, 1,000ft; vertical runs, 1,600ft. Centre closed due to weather. **Aonach Mor:** Snow level, sea level. Runs: upper and lower, complete. Access roads passable; chairlift and tows closed.

Forecast: Showers remaining over all areas. Sub-zero temperatures above 800ft, with some snow falls, and possible blizzard conditions on higher ground. Cloud will be broken, but overcast. Winds will be strong to gale force southwesterly, severe gale force on higher ground. **Outlook:** Lighter winds, but some heavy rain tomorrow morning. Sleet or snow showers returning.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

RUGBY UNION

Shelford is invited to return

NORTHAMPTON have invited Wayne Shelford, the New *Zealander, to return to the club* next season for a further year (Peter Bills writes).

The club, delighted with Shelford's influence, says it has been encouraged by the former All Black's initial response. Barrie Corless, the coaching organiser, said: "We are quite hopeful Wayne will return because he was pretty positive about the offer when we ap*proached him. His family has* settled in well and it has worked for both parties. Frankly, we would like his services for as long as possible."

The decisive factor will be whether Shelford receives any encouragement from Alex Wyllie, the All Blacks coach, when he asks whether there is any future for him in the New Zealand squad for the World Cup. If Wyllie is positive, Shelford will go home before the end of this season to play the representative season in New Zealand. If not, Northampton can expect him to remain and then probably return early next season for another year.

The former All Blacks captain is in demand world-wide. Transvaal have made repeated calls to Northampton

Northampton would like an *answer to their offer soon. If* Shelford cannot come, the club plans to approach another New Zealander to replace the All Black for next season. "Their attitude to both training and matches is quite different to ours. Wayne's excellent influence has rubbed off on everyone," Corless said.

Why Wales should rely on mild-mannered Mr Jones

GERALD DAVIES

THE time is upon us when we should come out of the woodshed and not be shy in declaring our preference. This does not, as *in other years, concern stand-off* halves. There seem too many of them to talk about, and all too much of a muchness for a coherent debate, which is in itself a barometer of the uncertain condition of Welsh rugby.

No. This is about the other half of Welsh rugby's immortal pairing. For a change, the scrum half has emerged to form the *centrepiece of the argument.* Although with as many questions raised over the team as there are positions to fill, the importance of the debate about the scrum half might be thought as relevant as choosing a captain of a vessel which is about to set sail with an almighty leak in its prow.

That the debate should be taken at all seriously is even more surprising. But there it is. Hereabouts, the topic will have animated many a flagging yuletide reunion: Robert Jones, of Swansea, or Chris Bridges, of Neath?

Welsh rugby is so short of class that the curious possibility exists — a very strong probability, even — that Robert Jones, one of only two players who possesses the quality — the other being Mark Ring — is likely to be *omitted from the Welsh team* to be announced next week. This ought to provoke at least a tiny voice of resistance.

For the second time in his career, Jones, capped 32 times for Wales and a player recognised to be of world-class stature, is in the dock having to plead his case to play against England in a fortnight's time.

Jones should not be chosen again to sit merely on the bench and play understudy to Bridges, as he did in Wales's last match against the Barbarians. This is *not to make small of Bridges's* talent, for he is, indeed, a very fine player. But he has still to make a clear-cut case that he is *overwhelmingly the better man.* Unless a player has done so at club level, he ought not to displace the player in the national colours.

Bridges has had the luxury of the Neath forwards in front of him. When they have failed to flex their considerable muscles and impose their will, as happened against Newport and Maesteg recently, Bridges looked less comfortably off.

Even though Jones has had to play behind an inferior pack of forwards for most of the time, he has yet to drop his standards for Wales. He has, in fact, been consistently good. By general consent, he was the sole redeeming feature in Wales's whitewash last season.

If the team is not winning, it is hardly his fault. To put someone else in that position in the hope that it will suddenly make things miraculously better for the other 14 is the stuff of fancy.

Jones was dropped in New Zealand in 1988 but it made not an iota of difference, so long as the forward platform was ineffective, when a more forceful player was installed at scrum half.

The last time Wales managed to impose themselves on any team — against England two years ago — Jones, aided by the *brilliance of Norster in the* lineout, teased the opposition into errors, exposed their psychological fragility, and won. Apart from playing with the British Isles and occasionally with his club, the schizophrenic Swansea, he has known little of that kind of luxury with a national team.

Jones may not thrust around the scrum as effectively as *Bridges. Yet to emphasise a* weakness is to fail to do justice to Jones's strengths. He is quick of eye, swift of response. He leads and plays by example. In a list of scrum halves' needs, the pass is of prime importance. Ask him to pass a ball and he will do so, whichever way you choose, under the severest pressure. He has balance, he has poise. And, above all, he has class.

There is, an old-fashioned word, chivalry, in his play and good manners in his form. He smiles, too. Which, to far too many, are signs of weakness rather than — which there rightly are — signs of strength. Bridges's time will come but, for now, let him be the apprentice. At this stage in his career, you imagine, he could be kept quiet by a vigilant back row. He has much still to learn. Jones, on the other hand, will not lie down.

Farr-Jones, the Australian captain, respects him, McGeechan, the Scotland coach, admires him. Bridges has, as yet, no such reputation to defend. Jones has. And knows it. And for any sportsman who cares, that represents a driving force greater than hunger.

Roses match may lead to honours

SCHOOLS RUGBY by MICHAEL STEVENSON

THE excellence of the eight-team Group Roses match at Skipton last Monday was such a superb advertisement for schools rugby that it will be surprising if a number of the players on show that day do not go forward to further representative honours.

Yorkshire managed to preserve their unbeaten record in the face of a spirited second half rally by **Lancashire**, who earlier had beaten Northumberland and Cumbria but had been trounced by Durham, with whom Yorkshire had drawn.

Last season, **Cheshire** were comfortably the strongest northern county and, having also drawn with Durham this winter, they are still unbeaten. Sadly, they will not be meeting Yorkshire who, unlike Lancashire and Cheshire, confine their fixtures to school holidays.

Radley *finished the term with* the triumphant record of: played 11: won 11, scoring 283 points to 27 conceded. Only three tries were scored against them. At the end of term, a combined Radley and **Wellington** side beat **Falcon College**, from Zimbabwe, 29-7. The visitors had not lost for 25 matches.

Colston's have enjoyed another wonderful season, although they lost their first game to St Brendan's. Since then they have won all 12 matches, scoring 323 points, including 62 tries, to 33 conceded. Perhaps their most remarkable achievement was to go the whole term without conceding a try. Their leading points scorer was the flanker, *Leigh Collins*, with 91.

It is good to hear that rugby is flourishing in the state sector at **Burford School**. They run five teams and their 1st XV reached the final of the Oxford County Cup, losing 6-0 to Lord William's School, Thame.

The divisional finals of the *Daily Mail* Under-18 Cup will be between: South West: **Bishop Wordsworth's** and **RGS High Wycombe**. Midlands: **Ellesmere** and **King Edward's, Stratford**. North: **RGS Newcastle** and **St Edward's, Liverpool**. London: **St Olave's** and the winners of **Reigate GS** and **London Oratory**. All finals will be played by February 6.

Wary reception for tour

THE Romanian and the Soviet rugby *federations yesterday* cautiously acknowledged contact with South Africa over the possibility of touring there (David Hands writes).

A Soviet spokesman said approval would be required from the foreign ministry while Romania said the government would need to be involved.

Radu Demian, the Romanian Rugby Federation secretary, said: "As soon as we get an official invitation we will inform the International Rugby Football Board to ask for their approval.

"We are ready to accept an invitation to South Africa but a tour will materialise only if all responsible bodies . . . agree."

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FOOTBALL

Visit of Tottenham will recall happier times for Blackpool

By Peter Ball

FA CUP

MINNOWS against giants is the very stuff of Cup romance. With Blackburn Rovers against Liverpool, Blackpool against Tottenham Hotspur and Burnley entertaining Manchester City, Lancashire this weekend offers a variation on the theme — fallen giants against giants.

At Blackburn, where they have maintained second division status, and, to a lesser extent at Burnley, where they at least still have first division facilities, the fall is relative. No such consolations exist at Blackpool, where the dwindling band of supporters have only memories to cling to, the ground telling an eloquent tale of 30 years of neglect while the team slowly edges away from the wrong end of the fourth division.

The visit from Tottenham tomorrow will at least stir the memories of the days when 30,000 thronged to Bloomfield Road to see Matthews and Mortensen, Johnston, Taylor, Brown, Mudie and Perry and Blackpool went to the Cup Final three times, Sir Stanley Matthews finally winning his medal to the joy of the nation in Coronation year, 1953.

On two of those trips Tottenham provided the last obstacle en route to Wembley. They are not games Spurs can look back on with pleasure, as in both matches the dying seconds brought disaster. In 1948 Spurs led 1-0 at Villa Park until Stanley Mortensen equalised moments from the whistle, and then scored twice more in extra time to put his team through to meet Manchester United in what is widely acclaimed as the outstanding post-war Cup Final.

In 1953 the pattern was only slightly different. The teams were level in the final minute when Alf Ramsey turned to hit a back pass and Jackie Mudie nipped in to set up the most emotional Cup Final of modern times.

The goal has gone down as Ramsey's aberration, one of the most notorious back-passes in the game's history. Mudie, however, recalls it slightly differently. "It was part of their play. Ramsey would pass back to Ditchburn, and as the forward went to the goalkeeper he'd throw it over the forward's head to Ramsey to get them started again," he said last week.

"We'd talked about it beforehand, we'd said that was something they did and to be prepared, and I'd been watching for it all game. It didn't come until the final minute. I ran in on his blind side, and hit it with my left foot and it went under Ditchburn as he went down. I can remember it vividly.

"But we were fortunate still to be level. They'd hit the post, they'd hit the bar, they could have been winning 6-1. But you need a bit of luck in the Cup."

The luck held in the final, a story that has been endlessly retold. But the glamour side of the era was getting old and was broken up by a new manager, Ron Suart.

Mudie was the first to go, his transfer to Stoke City paving the way for Matthews's own return to regenerate the Potteries. With the Costa del Sol soon to replace the Fylde as the North's favourite holiday destination, and the abolition of the maximum wage about to transfer power to the big city clubs, the end of the club's era in the limelight was at hand.

"It breaks your heart when you see where they are now," Mudie reflected. "I see Stan every two or three days, and still see several of the old players when we go back to Blackpool, and everyone is very sad about it. We used to get 25,000 to 30,000, and they're now lucky to get 3,000. When we were playing, the streets on the way to the ground were full of people an hour before kick-off. You felt the atmosphere before you even got into the dressing-room. Nowadays if you walk down there at twenty to three there's nobody about, no atmosphere at all."

Lineker: main attraction

With the ground now one of the most dilapidated in the League that is hardly surprising. The roof came off the main terrace during a wild night in the Seventies, not to be replaced, and more recently the floodlight pylons had to be cut in half to keep them standing.

"The ground is coming to the end of its life," the ebullient and charming chairman, estate agent turned media magnate, Owen Oyston, agreed. Since he took over the club three years ago, they have had to spend £200,000 to keep it ticking over.

Oyston's ambitious plans are met with some scepticism in northwest Lancashire. Given the town's general apathy towards the club, even a 40,000 capacity all-seat stadium seems like over-reaching ambition; a retractable pitch which will be laid over water, otherwise doubling as a boating lake, a luxury hotel with bedrooms which will convert into sponsor's boxes on match days, a radio station, a conference centre, leisure and retail outlets are the stuff of fantasy.

But planning permission is being awaited. And in the meantime, at least there will be a capacity crowd of 9,600 for Tottenham's visit, the prospect of seeing Gascoigne and Lineker proving as attractive a selling point as Matthews and Mortensen once did.

"With the success in the World Cup, Lineker and Gazza have created an awareness of the game that hasn't been there for a number of years," Oyston remarked.

"It means we'll make a profit for once. We've been making a loss of £12,000 a week, and that's without expenditure on meeting the requirements of the Taylor report or on new players. And it means a great deal to the town."

Soviet teacher of the hard school holds court

A smile to melt the ice: Morozova facing the triple challenge of Laura Austin, Zoe Mellis and Frances Hearn

Olga is still ogling Wimbledon

By Andrew Longmore
Tennis Correspondent

IF A cold wind begins to blow through the corridors of British tennis over the next three years, no one will have to look hard for the source. Olga Morozova might have a smile to melt the iciest of hearts, but the philosophy she will bring to her new task as the women's national training coach could have a numbing effect on a game traditionally wrapped in a tea cosy.

But first things first. The pronunciation. The accent is on the "roz" not the "ov" and the "z" is softened. Mo-*ross*-ova. Savour the double "s" because little else will be soft about the 41-year-old Moscovite. No one who has spent the last ten years bullying the authorities in the Kremlin to support her game and, as the Soviet national coach, nurturing a host of talented players from the wilderness will be frightened by the terrain ahead.

She is cautious — naturally so, after just three days in a new job, barely a couple of weeks sampling a new way of life — and deflects questions about the standard of the play she has seen at the Midland Bank 16-and-under championships in Telford this week, but the steel is barely covered.

"I like to work," she says with the sweetest of smiles. "I can spend hours on court and it would be nice to find some players with the same spirit. Players who enjoy being tired." A large part of Morozova's job over the next three years will be to seek out those children with the right spirit and the will to win, two qualities notably absent in more recent British products. "I have to teach them to be professional," she says. "Once that is in their blood, it will stay with them." That means ten, 11 and 12-year-olds.

Her first official engagement is to supervise a regional under-12 practice in Eastbourne next Friday. "I would like to see more junior events and then I can find out how the girls take to practice. Will they listen and, above all, why are they playing tennis? You have to enjoy playing, otherwise there is no point in working."

Only when Morozova's select few go to the national training centre at Bisham in September will her claim that Britain has the tradition and the talent to succeed be tested. Born and brought up in a system interested only in excellence, Morozova has already understood that things will be different.

"In Moscow, it was easy. Coaches were paid to produce results and even seven-year-olds who had come for an ordinary lesson were told, 'No, you're not good enough.' That was not good. Here the coach is paid to take a lesson. The attitude is different. I also have to establish a relationship with the families because if the families are on your side it is easier to work."

Morozova, her daughter Katia and husband, Victor, will be based at Bisham, and if the desire to broaden her 12-year-old daughter's education coincided with changes in her own land to influence her decision to come to Britain, you can sense a deeper, almost fatalistic attraction in the move. She has some unfinished business here.

Morozova won junior Wimbledon in 1965 at the age of 14; nine years later, she became the first Soviet woman to reach the Wimbledon singles final. She lost to Chris Evert in a match which subsequently proved to be the pinnacle of her career. "I thought at the time that I would be back to win the title, but it never happened." Unable to win the title herself, the next best thing would be to help some British girl do it for her. That is a far tougher challenge.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Initiative retaken by west as Hull fall

By Keith Macklin

A LOOK at recent results and at the championship table reveals the gap between the geographical divisions west and east of the Pennines shows no sign of narrowing.

For the past four seasons, clubs west of the Pennines, in that part of the world that used to be called Lancashire, have dominated the important trophies, while those in the east, in Yorkshire and Humberside, have constantly flattered to deceive.

It seems to be happening again. Hull were removed from the top of the first division table on New Year's day, and Widnes took over to give the table a familiar look, with Wigan hovering in the wings.

The challengers from the former West Riding, Leeds and Bradford Northern, had mixed holiday experiences, and show no signs of mounting a serious threat for the championship.

The mystery is that sides east of the Pennines do not lack gifted or expensive players, or internationals. Leeds have spent enormous sums of money in piecing together an impressive squad, yet they still seem to stumble everytime they cross the Pennines. In the last month, they have been comprehensively defeated by Widnes and Wigan, and no amount of flair at Headingley can hide their woeful inconsistency.

Bradford Northern have reached the Regal Trophy final, but their form since the semi-final has been dreary in the extreme, and their final opponents, Warrington, seem likely to continue their dominance of the small but powerful pocket of clubs around Merseyside and south Lancashire.

Hull Kingston Rovers, Castleford and Wakefield Trinity have blossomed fitfully only to fall apart, and it is hard to see a worthwhile challenge coming from those quarters. In the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, Wigan have held a monopoly for three seasons and as they build up to normal form and fluency, they and Widnes will be favourites.

It would be nice for neutrals, and for Yorkshiremen, to see Schofield, Dixon, Gibson and Gallagher inspire Leeds to a trophy success, but it seems no more than a pipe dream for those who want to redress the imbalance.

How odd it is that the so-called War of the Roses between the county sides has been won every time by Yorkshire.

● Jonathan Davies, the leading points scorer this season, could be back in action within a fortnight. It was feared he could be on the sidelines for up to six weeks after tearing a thigh muscle in training, but the Widnes coach, Doug Laughton, said: "Jonathan could be back playing sooner than expected as the injury is not as bad as first thought."

● Safety officials have ordered the closure of the main stand paddocks at the Oldham ground until essential safety work is completed on the stand roof.

YACHTING

Thackaberry is in line for a bonus

SYDNEY — Paul Thackaberry, of the United States, aboard Volcano, was first of the unsponsored Corinthian Class entries to finish the Cape Town to Sydney leg of the BOC single-handed round the world race yesterday (Bob Ross writes).

Besides picking up Aus $3,000 (£1,200) awarded to class winners for the leg by Commonwealth Industrial Gases Limited, the Australian member of the BOC group, Thackaberry has probably won Aus $1,000 (£400), presented by IBM, for the best day's run in each class for the second leg.

RESULT: 1, Volcano (P Thackaberry, US), 38 days 6hr 45min 20sec.

Ternent takes club to task over dismissal

STAN Ternent, who was dismissed as manager of Hull City yesterday, has accused the club of not keeping its promises.

Ternent, who left Crystal Palace, where he was assistant to Steve Coppell, to take over at Hull in November 1989, said that in the summer he was promised money for players and money to put on the wages bill.

"But it has not been forthcoming," he said. "We needed two or three new players.

"I have been at Hull for little more than a year and that is not long enough. I am very disappointed with what has happened." Ternent said that his hands had been tied.

Hull, at the bottom of the second division, have five wins in 25 League games this season and their record of 63 goals against is the worst in the League. Ternent's assistant at the club, Tom Wilson, has been made caretaker-manager, but the vacancy will be advertised.

Burton's false position now a realistic pursuit

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

BURTON Albion's emergence on the heels of Worcester City at the head of the Beazer Homes League premier division has been stealthy. When they drew at Chelmsford on November 24, they were fourteenth in the table; the 3-2 win at VS Rugby on New Year's Day lifted them a point behind faltering Worcester, 1-0 losers at Bromsgrove.

A surfeit of cup action had lent Burton's position in November a false air. But their form since then, stretching over an unbeaten run of 15 matches, including nine successive wins, has been impressive. Three of the four victories over the festive season came only after 2-0 leads had been lost to, among others, VS Rugby. That game was won in the 81st minute through Dave Elliott 40 seconds after Burton had relinquished their two-goal advantage.

Elliott's arrival after the Finnish season coincided with the start of the good run. A natural target man, Elliott has freed Simon Redfern to return to his favoured role in midfield even though Redfern's spell up front had taken him to the head of the goalscoring list, with 17 goals.

For Steve Powell, the former Derby County player, February will mark a year as manager, good going in what has become a graveyard for managerial ambitions since Burton reached the FA Trophy final in 1987.

The delight of Ian Atkins was clear after his Colchester side had leapfrogged into second place in the GM Vauxhall Conference with superb defending the foundation of their well merited 3-1 win over Barnet at Underhill. The first priority of Atkins afterwards was to try to secure the services of Shaun Elliott, the central defender, on loan from Blackpool. "He wants to stay, his commitment is fantastic," Atkins said.

MOTOR RALLYING

Ickx takes lead after desert test

PARIS (Reuter) — Jacky Ickx, of Belgium, a former winner, took the lead after the first desert test of the Paris-Dakar rally in Libya yesterday. Ickx, driving a Citroen, was the fastest in the 594km stretch from Ghadames, near the Tunisian and Algerian borders, to Idri, in central Libya.

The Belgian, winner in 1983, took over from Ari Vatanen, the prologue winner, who was also driving a Citroen. The Finn, who won the race in each of the last two years in a Peugeot, dropped to third place behind the Frenchman, Pierre Lartigue, in a Mitsubishi.

Vatanen finished more than five minutes down on Ickx, who leads the Frenchman by 59 seconds.

Today's second half of the marathon stage, the first of four two-day stages in which competitors are not allowed mechanical assistance, takes the rally 501km to Ghat, on the Niger frontier.

The first casualty of the race was the French co-driver, Francois Picquot, who broke several ribs when his Mitsubishi, driven by his compatriot, Henri de Roissard, overturned. Picquot was taken by helicopter for medical treatment.

SQUASH RACKETS

Martin continues to create havoc

JANE Martin, the Northumbrian teenager who has begun to shake the framework of domestic women's squash this season, earned another opportunity for disruption yesterday (Colin McQuillan writes). She removed Sabine Schone, of Germany, the second seed, to reach the final of the SRA British under-19 open championship at Leicester today.

Martin will meet Cassandra Jackman, the champion and top seed, of Norfolk, the reigning European junior champion. Jackman lost the British closed title to Martin in October, but won the North of England final in November before losing again to Martin in the Women's Superleague.

Yesterday Jackman brushed aside Sally Felton, of Northamptonshire, 9-3, 9-4, 9-2 while Martin treated Schone, the German No. 1, to a 9-6, 3-9, 9-3, 9-4 lesson.

Today's under-16 final features Donia Leeves, of Sussex, against Jenny Tranfield, of Yorkshire, the British closed under-16 champion. Both players survived spirited Scottish challenges to achieve a re-run of their semi-final in the closed championship.

SEMI-FINALS: Under 19: C Jackman (Norfolk) bt S Felton (Northants), 9-3, 9-4, 9-2; J Martin (Northumbria) bt S Schone (Ger) 9-6, 3-9, 9-3, 9-4. Under 16: J Tranfield (Yorks) bt W Maitland (Sco), 9-1, 9-7, 1-9, 9-0; D Leeves (Sussex) bt C Waddell (Sco), 8-10, 9-6, 7-9, 9-5, 9-1. Under 14: S Brind (Kent) bt J Thacker (Yorks), 9-1, 9-1, 10-9; T Shenton (Staffs) bt C Heal (Sussex), 9-3, 9-1, 9-0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Barclays League
Fourth division

Stockport v Wrexham
Torquay v Northampton

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Norwich v Southampton.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: First division: Featherstone Rovers v Oldham; Halifax v Salford; Hull KR v Warrington (8.0); Leeds v Hull; Wakefield Trinity v St Helens; Wigan v Leigh. Second division: Huddersfield v Batley.

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Screensport 13.00-15.00: College match. C4 17.30-18.00: Red 42. BSB 18.30-19.00 and Eurosport midnight-02.00: National Football League.

ATHLETICS: Eurosport 15.00-17.00: European championship highlights from Split.

BASKETBALL: Screensport 18.15-20.15: NBA.

BOXING: Screensport 09.30-11.00 and 21.15-22.45 and BSB 20.00-22.00 and 00.30-02.30 (tomorrow): Professional events.

CRICKET: Sky One 23.00-07.30 (tomorrow) and BBC2 20.00-20.30: Third Test: Australia v England from Sydney.

DARTS: BBC2 23.15-00.15: World Championships from Frimley Green.

EQUESTRIANISM: Eurosport 10.00-11.00: Show jumping from Belgium.

EUROPEAN SPORTS NETWORK: Screensport 15.00-17.00: 1990 review.

EUROSPORT NEWS: Eurosport 18.30-19.00 and 23.15-23.45.

FOOTBALL: Screensport 17.00-17.30: Spanish league.

GOLF: C4 11.30-12.30: Pro-celebrity event.

ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 11.00-13.00 and 23.00-01.00 and BSB 16.00-17.00: National Hockey League.

ICE SKATING: Eurosport 08.00-09.00: World Championships from Halifax, Canada.

MARTIAL ARTS FESTIVAL: Eurosport 19.00-20.00: From Paris.

MOTOR SPORT: Screensport 07.00-08.00, 18.00-18.15 and 22.45-23.00: World rally championships and the Paris-Dakar rally. Eurosport 11.00-12.00, 22.00-22.15 and 23.45-midnight: The Paris-Dakar rally. BSB 19.00-19.30.

RACING: BSB 13.30-14.00 and 23.30-midnight: Racing news.

ROWING: Eurosport 12.30-14.00: World Cup highlights from Tasmania.

SKI JUMPING: Eurosport 21.00-22.00: World Cup highlights from Austria.

SPORTSDESK: BSB 13.25, 18.00, 19.30, 22.00 and midnight.

SWIMMING: Eurosport 09.00-10.00 and 20.00-21.00: World Championships from Perth.

WATER SKIING: Eurosport 17.00-18.00: From Florida.

WORLD SPORTS SPECIAL: Eurosport 18.00-18.30.

REAL TENNIS

Leading names miss Canford

THE French Open doubles champion, Chris Bray, and Colin Lumley are favourites for the George Wimpey British Professional doubles championship starting today at Canford (Sally Jones writes).

But several leading players are in Boston for the US Open championships.

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FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

KORAC CUP: Third round: Estudiantes Madrid 85, Panionios Athens 81; Ostend 97, KK Zadar (Yug) 89; Phonola Caserta (It) 90, Hapoel Tel Aviv 76; Cibona Zagreb 81, Charlottenburg (Ger) 87; Joventut Badalona (Sp) 88, Mulhouse (Fr) 45; Panathinaikos 123, Castors Braine (Bel) 111.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta Hawks 120, Los Angeles Clippers 107; Milwaukee Bucks 108, Charlotte Hornets 91; Phoenix Suns 105, Cleveland Cavaliers 83; Detroit Pistons 118, Denver Nuggets 107; Indiana Pacers 121, San Antonio Spurs 109; Boston Celtics 113, New York Knicks 86; Minnesota Timberwolves 115, Dallas Mavericks 95; Utah Jazz 112, Miami Heat 102; Seattle Supersonics 127, Philadelphia 76ers 99.

FOOTBALL

Late results on Wednesday
BARCLAYS LEAGUE: First division: Norwich City 2, Nottingham Forest 6.

B AND Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Hibernian 1, Heart of Midlothian 4.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Fulham 3, Charlton 4. Postponed: Brighton v Millwall; Crystal Palace v Queen's Park Rangers.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 2, Sheffield United 0; Sheffield Wednesday 1, Blackburn 3; Wolves 0, Sunderland 2. Second division: York 1, Burnley 2.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Droylsden 2, Stalybridge 2; Goole 0, Bishop Auckland 3.

EAST ANGLIAN CUP: Haverhill 2, Harlow 1.
VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Loctite Cup: First round: Hayes 2, Wembley 1. Loctite Trophy: First round: Postponed: Ruislip Manor v Rainham. First round replay: Kingsbury 1, Hornchurch 2.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Newmarket 1, Histon 1.

SURREY SENIOR CUP: Epsom and Ewell 1, Molesey 1; Metropolitan Police 6, Leatherhead 2. Postponed: Croydon v Whyteleafe.

BERKS AND BUCKS SENIOR CUP: First round: Aylesbury 3, Didcot 0.

FA YOUTH CUP: Bradford City 2, Barnsley 1.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Adidas county championship: Buckinghamshire 2, Sussex 4; Inner London 1, Kent 2; South Yorkshire 4, Durham 1.

GOLF

RYE: President's Putter: Second round: C E Travers (Jesus, Cambridge) bt D G Burton (St John's, Cambridge), 4 and 3; M A Jones (Downing, Cambridge) bt M E Kitchin (Worcester, Oxford), 4 and 3; T M Walker (Magdalene, Cambridge) bt S P Thomas (Merton, Oxford), at the 21st; C G Nevill (Caius, Cambridge) bt N A Thayer (Peterhouse, Cambridge), 5 and 4; N J Grant (Christ's, Cambridge) bt I M Lewis (Jesus, Oxford), 3 and 2; J G Clark (St Edmund Hall, Oxford) bt P J R Webb (Trinity Hall, Cambridge), 1 hole; S M Ritchie (Christ Church, Oxford) bt D I Wilson (Magdalene, Cambridge), 1 hole; T M Fitzsimmons (Queen's, Oxford) bt A W Riley (Caius, Cambridge), 8 and 7; I D Wheater (Corpus Christi, Oxford) bt S Jenkins (Worcester, Oxford), at the 21st; A W Brierley (Worcester, Oxford) bt G W E Milligan (Churchill, Cambridge), 3 and 2; R J P Youngman (Trinity, Oxford) bt D L Baxter (Christ Church, Oxford), 1 hole; D M A Steel (Christ's, Cambridge) bt W J Bellhache (Merton, Oxford), 3 and 2; S D Ellis (Pembroke, Cambridge) bt D D S Corner (Lincoln, Oxford), 2 and 1; Rev M P J Bonney (St Catherine's, Cambridge) bt D H Garrow (Trinity, Oxford), 6 and 5; D Rowley-Jones (Selwyn, Cambridge) bt W J D Moberly (Sidney Sussex, Cambridge), 3 and 2; A H Catchpole (University, Oxford) bt P J R Soutter (Queen's, Cambridge), 3 and 2.
T R Grew (Sidney Sussex, Cambridge) bt R W Krefting (King's, Cambridge), 2 and 1; R D H Hall (Magdalene, Cambridge) bt C D Meacher (Fitzwilliam, Cambridge), 1 hole; J N Davie (Balliol, Oxford) bt M J L Jerrom (St Peter's, Oxford), 5 and 4; J H Palmer (St John's, Oxford) bt Sir Michael Willford (Pembroke, Cambridge), 4 and 3; W M Wysnerowski (Corpus Christi, Oxford) bt R J Rinaldi (Oriel, Oxford), 7 and 6; A D Swanston (Pembroke, Cambridge) bt D T Sparrow (Keble, Oxford), 3 and 2; W P M Warne (Hertford, Oxford) bt J T L Watson (Trinity Hall, Cambridge), 4 and 3; M J J Faber (Balliol, Oxford) bt R F H Petch (Magdalen, Oxford), 1 hole; J J N Caplan (Magdalene, Cambridge) bt P A Vickers (St Peter's, Oxford), at the 19th; P J R Bathurst (Magdalene, Cambridge) bt A P MacKenzie (Trinity, Cambridge), 5 and 4; M G Ebert (Fitzwilliam, Cambridge) bt I J Maddaford (Fitzwilliam, Cambridge), 1 hole; R W Devlin (Wadham, Oxford) bt S A Sharpe (Fitzwilliam, Cambridge), 2 and 1; R J Bisson (Christ Church, Oxford) P J Scarfield (St Catharine's, Oxford), 1 hole; C G White (Exeter, Oxford) and G C Penfold (Queens', Cambridge), all square after 18; A J Murley (St Catharine's, Cambridge) bt T J Hanson (St John's, Cambridge), 6 and 5; I J M Smith (Girton, Cambridge) bt D F Simons (Corpus Christi, Cambridge), 4 and 3.
J R W Beasley (Magdalene, Cambridge) bt P M Wyper (St Peter's, Oxford), 4 and 3; D J Youngman (Brasenose, Oxford) bt J W S Rumble (St Catharine's, Cambridge), 4 and 3; P M Froggatt (Clare, Cambridge) bt D C Taylor (Selwyn, Cambridge), 2 and 1; W H Barclay (St John's, Cambridge) bt K Frearson (Christ Church, Oxford), 3 and 2; N R M Philcox (New College, Oxford) bt J L Hill (Sidney Sussex, Cambridge), 5 and 4; C P Harrison (Downing, Cambridge) bt R H Bigley (Queens', Cambridge) 4 and 3; A N S Fisher (New College, Oxford) bt A Disley (Brasenose, Oxford) at the 19th; C J Dale (Trinity Hall, Cambridge) bt I M Henderson (Pembroke, Oxford), 1 hole; M F Balgent (St John's, Cambridge) bt D W McClean (Trinity, Cambridge), 2 and 1; G D Wueller (New College, Oxford) bt A G S McCallum (Pembroke, Oxford), 8 and 7; C J Weight (Jesus, Oxford) bt T F Sharp (Corpus Christi, Oxford), at the 19th; J A Skelton (Trinity, Cambridge) bt P L Osborn (Trinity Hall, Cambridge), 3 and 2; B Ingleby (Fitzwilliam, Cambridge) bt J L Hempel (St Anne's, Oxford), at the 19th; A L Woolnough (Wadham, Oxford) bt A D Chivers (St Benet's Hall, Oxford), 5 and 4; P F Gardiner-Hill (Christ Church, Oxford) bt J N Littlewood (New College, Oxford), at the 19th; B G Streather (St Edmund Hall, Oxford) bt I R H Pattinson (Pembroke, Cambridge), 4 and 3.
A G Edmond (Trinity, Cambridge) bt M Yates (St Catherine's, Oxford), at 20th; G O Leach (St Peter's, Oxford) bt L G B Williamson (Corpus Christi, Oxford), at 19th; N J Burke (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford) bt J M Peel (Worcester, Oxford), 7 and 6; J M T Werman (Selwyn, Cambridge) bt F J Edmond (Trinity, Cambridge), 5 and 4; D L Rendell (Oriel, Oxford) bt W H P Jackson (St Peter's, Oxford), 2 and 1; A C Hodson (St Peter's, Oxford) bt W G Morrison (Pembroke, Cambridge), 6 and 5; K A Froggatt (Hertford, Oxford) bt J Whitmore (Clare, Cambridge), 4 and 3; J B L Webster (Caius, Cambridge) bt P H Weller (St John's, Cambridge), 2 and 1; S C K Twigden (Selwyn, Cambridge) bt N M Williamson (Worcester, Oxford), 3 and 2; N H F Copestick (Queen's, Oxford) wo A G M Goodrich (Queens', Cambridge), scr; P Dawson (Corpus Christi, Cambridge) bt T E D Harker (Oriel, Oxford), 6 and 5; H M J Ritchie (Christ Church, Oxford) bt R F Palmer (St Johns, Cambridge), 2 and 1; A de C Aldrich-Blake (Pembroke, Cambridge) wo D C Bonsall (St John's, Cambridge), scr; P M Green (Emmanuel, Cambridge) bt J M E Anderson (Sidney Sussex, Cambridge), 2 and 1; A P Strachey (Fitzwilliam, Cambridge) bt P D Shaw (Mansfield, Oxford), 5 and 4; C L A Edgington (Pembroke, Oxford) bt C C Ellison (Homerton, Cambridge), 2 and 1.

BOWLS

COUNTY MATCHES: Buckinghamshire 126, Cambridgeshire 100; Bedfordshire 117, Suffolk 104; Essex 112, Tye Green 109.

ICE HOCKEY

MURRAYFIELD: International challenge: Great Britain 2, Lada Togliatti (USSR) 11.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo Sabres 5, New York Islanders 4; Detroit Red Wings 6, Minnesota North Stars 2; Hartford Whalers 5, Vancouver Canucks 2; New York Rangers 4, Los Angeles Kings 1; Winnipeg Jets 3, Calgary Flames 3 (OT); Montreal Canadiens 3, Edmonton Oilers 0.

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Czechoslovakia 6, Canada 5; United States 5, Sweden 2 (at Saskatchewan, Canada).

MOTOR RALLYING

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY: First stage (Ghadames to Idri, 594km): Cars: 1, J Ickx (Bel), Citroen, 2hr 6min 51sec; 2, P Lartigue (Fr), Mitsubishi, 59sec behind; 3, A Vatanen (Fin), Citroen, 5min 25sec behind; 4, K Eriksson (Swe), Mitsubishi, 8:44; 5, B Waldegaard (Swe), Citroen, 13:35; 6, H Auriol (Fr), Lada, 18:01. Motorcycles: 1, A De Petri (It), Yamaha, 6hr 30min 28sec; 2, S Peterhansel (Fr), Yamaha, 5:01 behind; 3, A Vall (Sp), Suzuki, 5:02.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Peel, Hunt and Co British championships: Under-21 singles: First round: H Green bt B Pugh 9-15, 15-6, 15-11; M Lowrey bt J McCombe 15-1, 15-7; L Danby bt A Lyons 15-3, 15-6; M Butler bt J Courtauld 15-3, 11-15, 15-11; J Acheson-Gray bt R Lawson 15-6, 15-11; J Trusted bt T Barker 15-12, 15-2. Under-21 doubles: Semi-finals: J Acheson-Gray and R Lawson bt M Butler and J Courtauld 15-11, 15-12, 15-1; B Pugh and J McCombe bt H Green and A Widmen 15-12, 7-15, 15-8, 15-6. Under-24 singles: First round: T Barker bt H Ford 15-3, 15-11, 15-0; J Hunter bt R Lawson 16-15, 15-8, 9-15, 15-12, 15-8; S Heck bt W Besse 16-13, 15-6, 15-4; J Nance bt J Symonds 15-11, 17-15, 15-12; J Trusted bt J Acheson-Gray 15-8, 15-3, 15-5; J Grant bt R Novis 12-15, 15-5, 15-1, 15-5; M Butler bt O Bridgeman 9-15, 15-8, 9-15, 17-14, 15-8; J Meyer bt A Vincent 15-8, 18-14, 10-15, 15-6; H Green bt J Courtauld 15-8, 9-15, 15-7, 15-12.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: South Wales Police 10, Bridgend 31.
SCHOOLS MATCH: RGS High Wycombe 16, Clongowes Wood (Ire) 18.
COUNTY MATCH: Kent Clubs 6, Surrey Clubs 22.

SNOOKER

BOURNEMOUTH: Mercantile Credit Classic: Third round: S Hendry (Scot) bt A Jones (Eng), 5-2; D O'Kane (NZ) bt S Longworth (Eng), 5-3; A Drago (Malta) bt J Grech (Malta), 5-1; R Chaperon (Can) bt J Smith (Eng), 5-1; S Davis (Eng) bt K Owers (Eng), 5-1; M Bennett (Wales) bt T Griffiths (Wales), 5-2; D Roe (Eng) bt A Meo (Eng), 5-4; M Clark (Eng) bt J Wych (Can), 5-2. Fourth round: J Johnson (Eng) bt J Campbell (Aus), 5-0; M Hallett (Eng) bt B West (Eng), 5-0; S Davis (Eng) bt C Wilson (Wales), 5-0; E Charlton (Aus) bt J Parrott (Eng), 5-1; E Lawler (Eng) bt S Newbury (Wales), 5-2; A McManus (Scot) bt A Robidoux (Can), 5-3; W Jones (Wales) bt A Chappel (Wales), 5-3; K Doherty (Eire) bt J Prince (Eng), 5-3.

TENNIS

TELFORD: Midland Bank British junior championships: Boys: Quarter-finals: L Sabin (Dorset) bt P Jessop (Staffs), 6-4, 6-1; T Hand (Devon) bt N Jones (Hereford and Worcester), 6-1, 6-2; J Delgado (Warwicks) bt T Spinks (Norfolk), 7-6, 6-1; M Coombs (Essex) bt J Fox (Lincs), 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. Girls: Quarter-finals: M Wainwright (Essex) bt K Webster (Derbys), 6-0, 6-4; H Matthews (Berks) bt N Humphreys-Davies (Cambs), 6-2, 6-0; S Tse (Isle of Man) bt C Taylor (Oxon), 6-2, 5-7, 6-3; L Jeffs (Oxon) bt V Gray (Sussex), 6-3, 1-6, 7-5.

ADELAIDE: Australian men's hard-court championships: J Courier (US) bt P Haarhuis (Neth), 6-4, 6-4; M Stich (Ger) bt G Bloom (Isr), 7-5, 6-1; M Sinner (Ger) bt M Woodforde (Aus), 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; J Arias (US) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus), 6-2, 6-4.

BRISBANE: Australian women's hard-court championships: L Savchenko (USSR) bt J Novotna (Cz), 6-2, 6-4; S Appelmans (Bel) bt S Stafford (US), 6-4, 6-3; J Wiesner (Austria) bt N Medvedeva (USSR), 6-0, 7-5; L Harvey-Wild (US) bt C Porwik (Ger), 6-3, 6-4; R McQuillan (Aus) bt G Magers (US), 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; H Sukova (Cz) bt J Halard (Fr), 6-4, 6-4; A Kijimuta (Japan) bt M Kidowaki (Japan), 6-4, 6-4; C Tessi (Arg) bt K Godridge (Aus), 6-2, 6-1.

PERTH: Hopman Cup: Final: Yugoslavia 3, United States 0 (Yugoslav names first): M Seles bt Z Garrison, 6-1, 6-1; G Prpic bt D Wheaton, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; Prpic and Seles bt Wheaton and Garrison, 8-3 (reduced to best of 15 games).

WELLINGTON: New Zealand championships: Quarter-finals: L Jonsson (Swe) bt A Sznajder (Can), 6-2, 6-2; O Camporese (It) bt T Hogstedt (Swe), 6-3, 7-6.

IN BRIEF

Agassi set to play

ANDRE Agassi, the world tennis No. 4, has announced he intends to play at Wimbledon next summer for the first time since 1987.

Speaking on American television, Agassi said: "This year, I hope they're ready for me. I've put a lot of thought into my decision, but I think you'll see me there this year and I hope people are ready for it."

BOXING: DENNIS Andries is to go ahead with his defence of the WBC light-heavyweight title against Guy Waters, of Australia, after the intervention of the WBC president, Jose Suleiman. The bout is in Adelaide on January 19.

SKIING: Heavy rain forced organisers to cancel yesterday's training runs for this weekend's men's World Cup Alpine races in Garmisch, Germany.

CYCLING: Beryl Burton, winner of seven world titles between 1959 and 1967, is to rejoin her original club, Morley. Burton, aged 53, still races regularly.

MOTOR RALLYING: Louise Aitken-Walker, the women's world champion, has been awarded the Jim Clark trophy, for the Scottish driver who has contributed most to motor sport. She had wins in the women's category in the Monte Carlo, New Zealand, Australian, Italian and Lombard RAC events.

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League will pack the power of the leading two clubs

By Stuart Jones, football correspondent

MANY Liverpool and Arsenal players are about to receive an appealing compensaton for being knocked out of the Rumbelows Cup. While seven other first division clubs are competing in the quarter-final ties on January 16, they are sure to be representing the Football League against the Italian League in Naples.

The squad to be announced today promises to be powerful in spite of the limited choice. The only notable omissions will be Bryan Robson and Gary Lineker, the past and present captains of England, and Paul Gascoigne and David Platt, both of whom made an impact in Italy during the World Cup.

Gascoigne will be under suspension and the others will be on domestic duty with Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United and Aston Villa. Gary Mabbutt, David Howells, Gary Pallister, Paul Ince, Neil Webb, Danny Wallace, Nigel Spink and Gordon Cowans, all of whom were selected in England's B squad last month, are also ruled out of consideration.

So are David Batty, John Lukic and Mel Sterland, of Leeds United, and Matthew Le Tissier, of Southampton. The other clubs to have reached the last eight of the cup, Chelsea and Coventry City, have no leading contenders other than Andy Townsend, who might have been chosen in midfield.

The process of elimination does not end there. Tony Daley, of Villa, and Paul Parker, of Queen's Park Rangers, are also unavailable because of injury, for example, but there is enough remaining quality for Lawrie McMenemy to be able to call up a formidable array of experienced internationals.

Graham Taylor, England's manager, who will be otherwise engaged in the United States during the fixture, and his assistant can look beyond the national barriers. The most obvious candidates among the foreign contingent are Glenn Hysen, the captain of Sweden, and Anders Limpar, his fellow countryman.

Both of them have the added advantage of being familiar with the style of the Italians. Hysen, Liverpool's composed central defender, was bought from Fiorentina and Limpar, the inspirational spark behind Arsenal's challenge for the title, was acquired from Atlanta. He could be balanced on the other flank by John Barnes.

Liverpool's winger has long expressed a desire to move to the Continent. His international reputation, which has been built almost exclusively on his club performances, declined during the World Cup and he would relish another public opportunity to convince the Italians at least that his talent has not yet diminished.

In spite of the absence of Lineker, the front line could be led by prolific scorers. Ian Rush and Dean Saunders, fellow Welshmen, could partner each other and Ian Wright, Crystal Palace's explosive forward, is another prominent contender. Between them they have claimed 38 goals so far this season.

Midfield is potentially the weakest area. Steve McMahon, although his recent contribution for Liverpool has been less than convincing, will probably be included with Michael Thomas and Paul Davis, the reliable pair from Arsenal. By contrast, Taylor and McMenemy are almost spoiled for choice at the back.

As well as Hysen, they can summon several members of England's defensive unit in the World Cup. Mark Wright, who could be employed in his usual international role of sweeper, Des Walker and Stuart Pearce are available. So is Lee Dixon, who has appeared in all three of Taylor's line-ups.

David Seaman, who collected his one full England cap two years ago, is likely to be invited with Neville Southall, arguably the best goalkeeper in the League. They are expected to complete a squad, which would conveniently link perhaps 10 players from the two strongest sides in the country.

Fraser ruled out of Test

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, Sydney

ANGUS Fraser was last night ruled out of England's team for the third Test, with the team management insistently denying the conclusion that they had taken an unwarranted risk by playing him in the limited-overs match on Tuesday.

Fraser was surprisingly included for the day-night game against Australia despite the pain of an inflamed hip. Micky Stewart, the team manager, claims that Fraser would not have played had there been any fear of causing further damage, but concedes *that the player was in more* distress at the end of the game than at the start.

The outcome is that England are without their best bowler for a match they must win to retain an interest in the Ashes, and the suspicion of a foolish gamble having backfired will be difficult to dismiss.

When Fraser took no part in yesterday's practice, Stewart said: "It would be a stab in the dark to pick him now." But he added: "Playing in the one-dayer made no difference at all. Laurie Brown, our physiotherapist, was confident it would not worsen the condition. There was no gamble involved."

By the time the selectors convened, however, it was plain that to include Fraser *would be one punt too many* in a side already obliged to discard the conventions of a balanced attack to protect a highly suspect batting order.

A final decision on the twelfth man was not to be taken until the pitch had been reinspected before the toss but Peter Lush, the tour manager, intimated that the major policy choice had already been made with the sensible retention of Russell as wicketkeeper.

This either meant Russell batting at No. 6, at least one place too high, or, much more likely, England going in with Malcolm and Small as the only two seam bowlers. Gooch, the captain, would be expected to provide some back-up, with most of the work being done by the two *spin bowlers*, Tufnell and Hemmings.

Some heartening news came with Tufnell's recovery from a stomach disorder but, as expected, Lamb was discounted, making this the fifth consecutive overseas Test in which England have been unable to include Gooch and Lamb together.

AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (captain), M A Taylor, G R Marsh, D C Boon, D M Jones, S R Waugh, G R J Matthews, I A Healy, M G Hughes, T M Alderman, B A Reid, C G Rackemann.

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (capt), M A Atherton, W Larkins, R A Smith, D I Gower, A J Stewart, R C Russell, G C Small, P C R Tufnell, E E Hemmings, D E Malcolm, P A J DeFreitas.

John Woodcock, page 28

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TM14

Lewis told to aim for April start

A SPECIALIST has told the England all-rounder, Chris Lewis, that he should be fit for the start of the new season in April.

The Leicestershire player, aged 22, returned home from the tour of Australia following the discovery that he had a stress fracture in his back.

"The news was optimistic. He confirmed that with two or three months of rest I should be fine for the start of the new season," Lewis said.

Not all ship-shape and presidential fashion at Rye

MARC ASPLAND

Adrift in stormy waters: Fiona Edmond is beginning to flag as she strives to beat off her opponent as well as the effects of the flu

American beats rival and jet-lag

By John Hennessy

GUY Wuollet, American winner of the President's Putter for Oxford in two of the last three years, plundered another handsome victory in the second round at Rye yesterday. Having won 6 and 4 on Wednesday, he overpowered the luckless Graham McCallum, a *rara avis* in that he did not win a Blue, 8 and 7.

In these two matches, moreover, Wuollet would have been at his most vulnerable since he arrived from the United States only on Wednesday morning. The longer he survives, therefore, the harder he will surely be to dislodge. Yet Michael Baigent, from the other place, may be expected to offer a more worthwhile challenge this morning.

Fiona Edmond, a heroine for Cambridge last year under her maiden name of Macdonald, was given short shrift by Jamie Warman, a former Oxford captain. It was unfortuntate for Edmond, already suffering from the after-effects of flu, that they started at the 10th tee, since her lack of length against such an accomplished opponent was bound to be cruelly exposed on the more demanding back nine.

Warman, allowing halves at only two holes going out, turned seven up and, predictably, went eight up with eight to play at the 1st (their 10th), the only par five of the course.

Edmond, who has to play off the same tees in the Putter, won the next three holes with a final little flourish, but was dispatched at the 5th (their 14th). Needing two for the match from five feet, Warman, in his own words, "twitched it in when I was aiming to take two." Even so, gentleman that he is, he called it 5 and 4.

Andrew Edmond, newly married to Fiona, narrowly survived after being four up against Martin Yates and so is one match away from what boxers might call a double grudge bout. Edmond would want to avenge his wife's defeat and Warman his downfall at the hands of the husband in last year's tournament.

Yates, three down with five to play, holed excellent putts to win the 5th (their 14th) and 7th and then putted up to three feet from off the green for a birdie three at the 9th. He was unlucky to find a fairway divot at the second extra hole and could not get up.

A wild, wet afternoon had turned stygian before play ended and one pair have to go down the 19th this morning. Godfrey Penfold chanced his arm with a 2½-foot putt at the 18th, but without the benefit of floodlights it was touch and go. It went.

Results, page 29

Board lifts Warren's suspension

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing correspondent

THE suspension of the licences of Frank Warren was lifted by the British Boxing Board of Control yesterday but the dispute over money Warren allegedly owes Tom Collins, the European light-heavyweight champion, could go on in the courts.

The board, which had imposed the ban because it claimed Warren had not paid $20,000 to Collins, said it had decided to lift the suspension after the promoter "lodged" the money with the board.

John Morris, the secretary of the board, said: "We wrote Frank Warren a number of reminders telling him that if he did not comply by January 1 we would take action. Now that the money is lodged with the board we have lifted the suspension."

But Warren said that though he had authorised the board to deduct the money from a £13,000 bond lodged with the board, he was now taking legal steps

The promoter's solicitors have written to the board saying that the deduction of the money "in no way affects his intention to commence proceedings against the board.

"I had had to pay the money to get my licence back and save my show," Warren said. He has an International Boxing Federation light-welterweight bout between Julio Cesar Chavez, of Mexico, and Santos Cardona, of the United States, at the London Arena on February 2.

BRM to return to the track

By Stephen Slater

BRM, one of the most famous marques in British motor racing, is set to return to the sport after a 14-year absence, it was announced at the opening of the Auto Sports International Show in *Birmingham yesterday.*

Founded in 1947, BRM was one of the front-running teams in grand prix racing throughout the 1950s and 1960s, but has been dormant since 1977. Later this year the company, still owned by the Owen family, will return to the track with two all-new, V-12 engined sports cars. One model, the P351, is being designed to compete in the world sports car championship, while the second, the supercharged P401, is destined to become one of the world's fastest road cars.

John Mangoletsi, who is heading BRM's technical and design operation at Congleton, in Cheshire, said: "Sports car racing is today far more appropriate for a car manufacturer than grand prix racing. We are looking to passing on the benefits of our racing programme — straight through to the road car project."

British honours at the auto sports show are also being upheld on the driving front. The grand prix drivers, Nigel Mansell OBE and Derek Warwick announced that they will be combining forces to launch Warwick's younger brother, Paul, into the highest echelons of the sport.

Paul Warwick is aiming to become the first Briton to win the British Formula 3000 Championship at the wheel of a 460 bhp Reynard-Cosworth car, prepared by Nigel's team, Mansell Madgwick Motorsport, who last year won the championship with the Portuguese driver, Pedro Chaves.

Paul, aged 20, has already proved a champion in lesser formulae and gained the full approval of Mansell, who said: "It's very hard work, but Paul has already proved that he has what it takes to be a winner. We're looking forward to him giving the team a double success."

Fears put end to county tie

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

THE confused state, and status, of the county championship was never better illustrated than yesterday when it was announced that North Midlands had withdrawn from their rearranged fixture with Lancashire at Orrell tomorrow. They did so fearing a mismatch, and thereby condemned themselves to second division rugby next season.

North Midlands, beaten 37-0 by Warwickshire and 57-4 by Yorkshire, took the decision when they heard that Lancashire had selected the entire Orrell pack, most of whom were involved in divisional rugby in December when the original fixture should have been played.

"We couldn't take the risk of any of our players being injured in such a mismatch," Peter Grace, the chairman of selectors, said. "The selection of the Lancashire team was not, in our opinion, in the spirit of the game and that is why we pulled out."

There is nothing in the regulations to prevent Lancashire, the 1990 champions, choosing whichever players were available to them to avoid relegation. They were also offering assistance to the county's best club, Orrell, by giving the players a game together before the league match with Harlequins on January 12 and they have been sadly affected themselves by divisional calls.

Bill Bishop, chairman of the Rugby Football Union's competitions sub-committee, said the regulations would be examined to avoid a repeat.

● Brotherly love will keep the Rosslyn Park captain, Richard Moon, on the sidelines at Llanelli tomorrow. Richard and his younger brother Rupert, the Llanelli scrum-half, have a family *rule* that they will never play against each other.

Ian Campbell-Lamerton replaces Simon Dear, the Park lock who is training with the England squad in Lanzarote.

Charlton belies his years

By Steve Acteson

THE evergreen Eddie Charlton, aged 61 but still ranked 31st in the snooker world, yesterday defeated the world No. 3, John Parrott, of Liverpool, 5-1 in the most surprising result so far of the Mercantile Credit Classic at Bournemouth.

Charlton mixed breaks of 35, 62, 42 and 40 with some superb safety play to establish a 4-0 lead and although Parrott stole the fifth frame with a clearance of 31, his demise was not long in coming.

Charlton, already guaranteed £4,500 for his place in the last 16, needs the money. His wife, Robyn, is expecting their second son in March and he also has three children and six grandchildren from his first marriage.

Having outlasted such contemporaries as Ray Reardon and Fred Davis, Charlton is still passionately in love with the game.

He next plays Ken Doherty, of Ireland, who beat fellow first season professional, Jason Prince, 5-3. Alan McManus, a rookie but a UK championship semi-finalist, also reached the fifth round.

RESULTS: Fourth round: J Johnson (Eng) bt J Campbell (Aus), 5-0; M Hallett (Eng) bt B West (Eng), 5-0; S Davis (Eng) bt C Wilson (Wales), 5-0; E Charlton (Aus) bt J Parrott (Eng), 5-1; E Lawler (Eng) bt S Newbury (Wales), 5-2; A McManus (Scot) bt A Robidoux (Can), 5-3; W Jones (Wales) bt A Chappel (Wales), 5-3; K Doherty (Eire) bt J Prince (N Ire), 5-3. **Wednesday's late third round results:** S Hendry (Scot) bt A Jones (Eng), 5-2; D O'Kane (NZ) bt S Longworth (Eng), 5-3; A Drago (Malta) bt J Grech (Malta), 5-1; R Chaperon (Can) bt J Smith (Eng), 5-1; S Davis (Eng) bt K Owers (Eng), 5-1; M Bennett (Wales) bt T Griffiths (Wales), 5-2; D Roe (Eng) bt A Meo (Eng), 5-4; M Clark (Eng) bt J Wych (Can), 5-2.

Childerley leads British quest for gold

By Barry Pickthall

THE British Olympic yachting coaches are planning for a bumper haul of medals at next year's Games in Barcelona.

"We are well ahead on fitness and mental preparation and that told at the Palamos Christmas regatta, where our sailors gained first, second and third placings," Rod Carr, the chief Olympic coach, said at the London Boat Show yesterday.

His optimism has helped win the backing of PowerGen, the newly privatised electricity company which announced yesterday that it is to chip in half the £40,000 budget for Stuart Childerley's campaign to win gold in the Finn single-hander class.

The 24-year-old from Southampton was a recipient of a £5,000 *Times*/Minet Supreme Award after winning the pre-Olympic regatta in Korea four years ago, but then finished a disappointing fourth when it came to the all-important medal count a year later. "I peaked too early then, but hope that by devoting 18 months, and not three and a half years, I will peak at the right point this time" he said.

Using the same dinghy that helped him to win the European championship four years ago, Childerley finished a promising second to the present European champion, Stig Westergard, of Denmark, at Palamos last week after a two-year break.

With the support of Powergen, together with secondary sponsorship from Henri-Lloyd, Childerley now embarks on a full-time programme taking in pre-Olympic regattas at Genoa, Anzio and Palma before travelling to Kingston, Canada, for the world championship in September.

Rod Carr's other Olympic medal hopes include the British Olympic class sailboard world champion, Penny Way, who continued her winning ways at Palamos with a clean sweep of victories, the men's champion, Barrie Edgington, and the former 470 world champions, Nigel Buckley and Peter Newlands.

Another to impress is Matthew Wemms, aged 19, the windsurfer who came through with a second and a sixth on the final day to finish third at Palamos despite ripping his hands in training.

A replacement for Jester, the famous 26ft Folkboat sailed by Lt Col Blondie Haslar in the first *Observer* single-handed transatlantic back in 1960, which was lost in the 1988 race during her fourteenth crossing, is to be built by the Aldeburgh boatyard in Suffolk. The new boat will compete in next year's transatlantic race.

Seles and Prpic brush United States aside

PERTH (AP) — Monica Seles and Goran Prpic won singles matches yesterday to lift Yugoslavia to victory over the United States, the No. 1 seeds, in the final of the Hopman Cup team tennis championship at the Burswood Superdome.

Seles crushed Zina Garrison, 6-1, 6-1 in the women's singles, and Prpic rallied to defeat David Wheaton, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the men's singles to give Yugoslavia an unbeatable 2-0 lead and leave the mixed doubles meaningless.

Seles, the world No. 2, outplayed Garrison, who was beaten in the Wimbledon final last year, in the opening singles, which took just 65 minutes and was unbeaten in singles action during the tournament.

She hit the ball deep from the baseline and forced a succession of errors from the American, who struggled with volleys and overhead shots.

Prpic trailed 6-4, 3-1 against the power-serving of Wheaton, but gradually wore down his opponent. He served ten aces and was successful with 70 per cent of his first serves.